

BLACK DIAMOND  
WESTERN

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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
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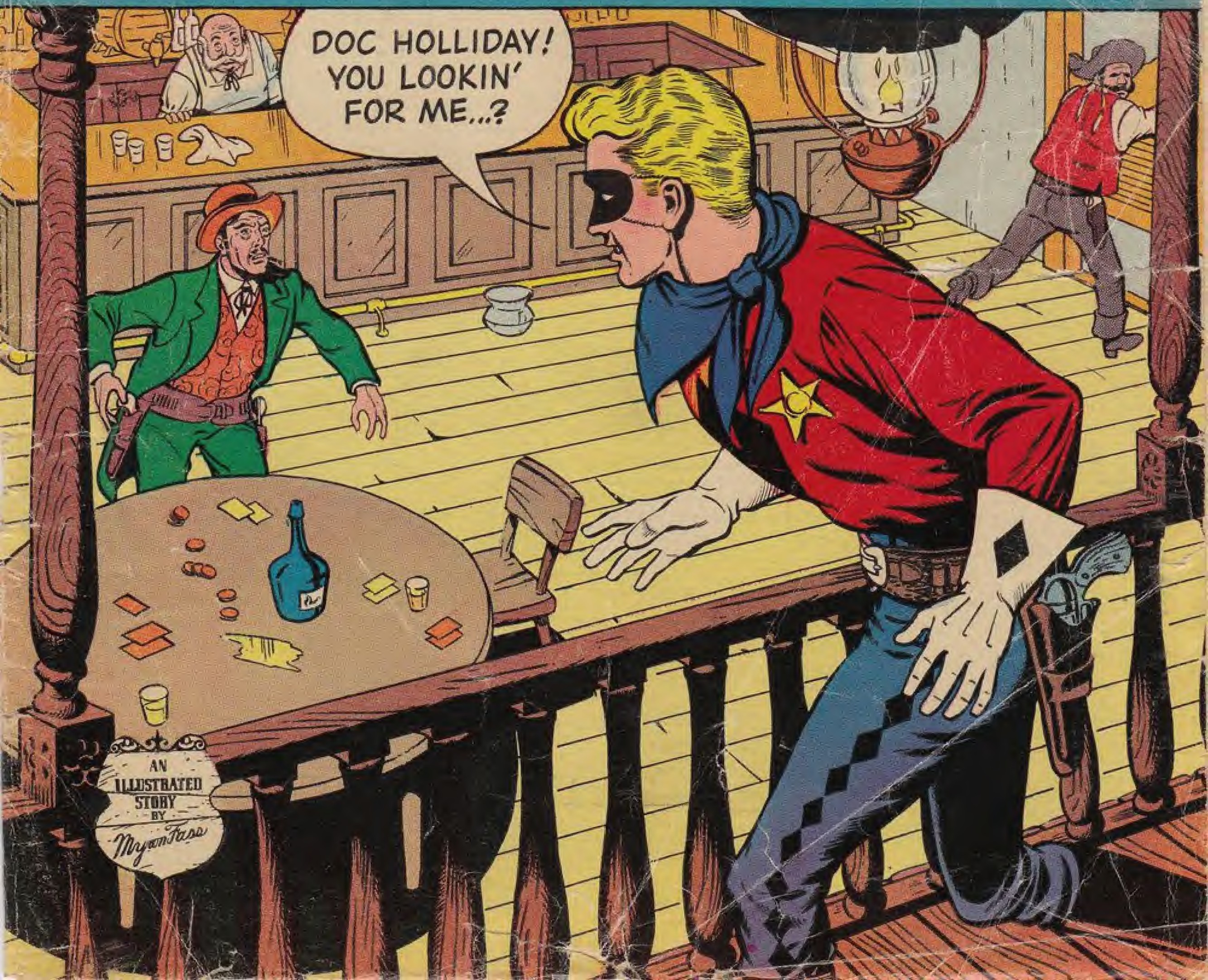
AUTHORITY

# BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

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NO. 59

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LEV GLEASON PUBLISHER AND EDITOR



AN  
ILLUSTRATED  
STORY  
BY

*Myron Fosse*





WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM



# GAIN WEIGHT

stop  
being

# SKINNY!



Now at last—**QUICKLY—EASILY** put firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

**DON'T STAY SKINNY!  
GO FROM THIS TO THIS!**

or your money back!

Amazing New Way developed by modern medical science to put on weight on lean bodies. **Guaranteed** to give you up to an **extra pound a day!** Or your **money back!** Why should you dread going to parties and socials, simply because you look scrawny and spindly? Why ever feel self-conscious about your body again? If you're **underweight** . . . or just a little on the thin side, due to faulty appetite, or bad dietary habits, you can **put on up to a pound a day** of attractive weight without exercise . . . dangerous drugs . . . or special diet . . . and more quickly, more easily than you ever dreamed possible . . . with **MORE-WATE**. **MORE-WATE** contains no dangerous drugs . . . you **eat it like candy!** Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain **quick-acting MORE-WATE** tablets . . . a 30 day supply for only \$2.98, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try **MORE-WATE** for **TEN DAYS** . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and **weight to gain!** Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads summer and going to parties and socials because it means everyone will enjoy themselves and you won't. Don't be a wallflower, because you have a figure like a broomstick! **Gain more weight!**

## IN JUST 24 HOURS START GAINING WEIGHT

The fast acting **MORE-WATE** tablets are **unconditionally guaranteed** to put on weight . . . or it doesn't cost you a penny! **MORE-WATE** is a **delicious**, full strength, fast acting tablet . . . that combines not just one . . . or two . . . but 4 of the most amazing aids for **gaining weight** known to medical science. **MORE-WATE** is not a liquid . . . not a powder. It's a delicious, **pleasant-tasting tablet!** It contains vitamin **B-12** . . . the **amazing red vitamin doctors** give many **underweight patients** in **hospitals** . . . It contains Iron that helps correct iron deficiency, anemia and builds rich, red blood. It contains appetite-building vitamin **B-1** . . . and it contains nutritious easily assimilated malt, the amazing ingredient that helps your body turn much of the food you eat into **well rounded flesh** instead of being wasted. **That's the secret of putting on weight.** Now you can help your food to **add new pounds** to your **arms, chest, hips, thighs, and legs.** Now you don't have to be skinny . . . or afraid to be seen socially and be ashamed of your figure! **You must achieve the figure you want . . . or don't pay anything!** Act now!

**MORE-WATE** is the newest discovery of medical science—entirely safe! Not a drug—not a medicine . . . Instead, a delicious weight-adding tablet that helps your body build new pounds of **HEALTHY, ATTRACTIVE** body weight! You gain **SOLID** good-looking flesh **AUTOMATICALLY** wherever you need it—on face, neck, bust, arms, legs, ankles, etc. (all over!)

**START GAINING WEIGHT in 24 HOURS!** Amazing new **MORE-WATE** puts on weight **FASTER THAN ANYTHING KNOWN TO MEDICAL SCIENCE!** If you **LOSE APPETITE QUICKLY.** . . . If you fill up at meals and lose your appetite, take **MORE-WATE**, the amazing concentrated **fast acting** tablet that tastes delicious and works **weight-gaining** wonders.

## WHY BE SKINNY?

Now you can quickly put on 10 to 20 pounds or more of well-rounded pounds so fast it will amaze you! Like **MAGIC** skinny, broom-stick figures fill out all over the body into a beautiful new "LOOK" that wins popularity! **MORE-WATE** promotes appetite, new pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality. **DON'T BE SKINNY! SEND FOR MORE-WATE** delicious tasting, fast acting tablets **TODAY!**

## TEST AT OUR RISK

Mail the coupon below for your generous supply of **MORE-WATE!** Only \$2.98 for full generous supply or \$6 for the triple generous large economy size on the guarantee if the first package doesn't increase your weight to your satisfaction, return the empty package for full money-back refund. **MAIL THE COUPON NOW! CHILDREN—get mom or dad to order for you!**

## MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON TODAY!

**MORE-WATE CO., Dept. 57**  
318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey

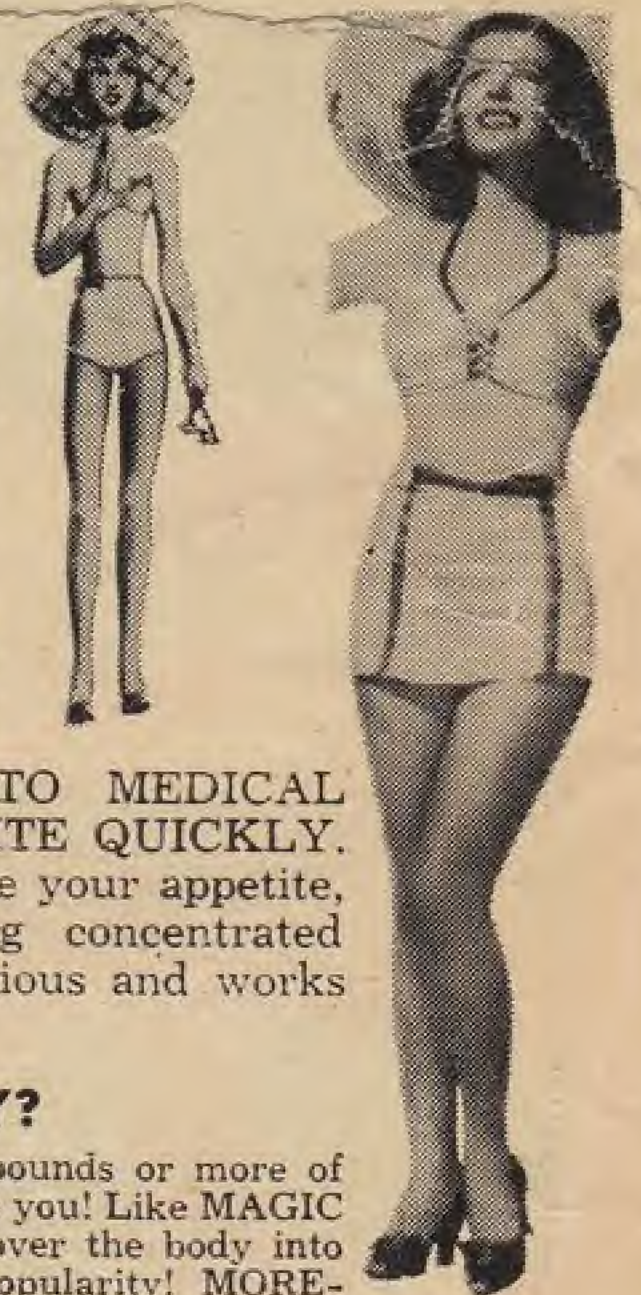
- ☐ **SEND ONE** large generous supply of **MORE-WATE**. I enclose \$2.98 cash, check or M.O., on **GUARANTEE** I must be delighted with first package or money-back when I return empty package. (I save up to 90c by sending payment with order.)
- ☐ **CHECK HERE IF YOU WANT 3** for \$6. (Save \$3.)

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

SENT ON APPROVAL — MAKE AMAZING 10-DAY TEST



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THOUGH HIS PAST WAS VEILED IN MYSTERY AND CLOAKED IN VAGUE AND SHADOWED RUMORS, DOC HOLLIDAY WAS A FAMILIAR FIGURE IN THE ROARING DAYS OF TOMBSTONE! A SMALL MAN IN AN OVERCOAT WHO CARRIED A NICKELPLATED SIX-SHOOTER, A BOWIE KNIFE TIED AROUND HIS NECK BY A STRING, AND SOMETIMES A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN STUCK IN HIS BELT! QUITE OFTEN, HE WAS SEEN COUGHING INTO A HANDKERCHIEF... FOR YOU SEE... **DOC HOLLIDAY WAS A DOOMED MAN!**... DOOMED TO DIE OF DREADED TUBERCULOSIS! BUT HIS DRAW WAS LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING AND THE SCORPION KNOWING THIS, PAID HIM TO CHALLENGE BLACK DIAMOND! WHAT WILL THE OUTCOME BE WHEN THE GALLANT MARSHAL FINDS HIMSELF A MARK FOR A...

# H I R E D G U N

DOC! I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU, AND HERE'S SOME HARD MONEY TO MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE! **GET BLACK DIAMOND!**

DON'T WORRY! I'VE ALREADY FIGURED OUT HOW TO GET RID O' THE MARSHAL! HE'S AS GOOD AS ON BOOT HILL!



AN  
ILLUSTRATED  
STORY  
BY  
*Myron Fosse*



**B** LACK DIAMOND KEEPS CONSTANT VIGIL OVER THE SAFETY OF TOMBSTONE...

LET'S FORGET THIS BANK JOB! HERE COMES A POSSE AFTER US! THAT BLASTED BLACK DIAMOND **NEVER** SLEEPS!



**D** IAMOND'S CONSTANCY IN THWARTING THE SCORPION'S DIABOLICAL PLANS HAS SO ENRAGED THE MASTER CRIMINAL... HE HAS DECIDED...

**BLACK DIAMOND MUST GO!**



IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SAID THAT THE LAW STOPPED THE SCORPION! FIND OUT WHO'S THE FASTEST GUNSLINGER IN THE WEST... AND HIRE HIM!

DOC HOLLIDAY FITS THAT DESCRIPTION! BUT HE'S IN NOGALES... WEARIN' CALLOUSES ON HIS ELBOWS IN THE RED DOG SALOON!



**A** FEW DAYS LATER, IN THE RED DOG SALOON... A CARD GAME PLAYED BETWEEN THREE TENSE MEN, IS UNDER WAY...

NO GOOD, DOC! I'VE GOT FOUR ACES!

THAT CLEANS ME OUT, BOYS!



**D** OC HOLLIDAY AMBLES DEJECTEDLY TO THE BAR, UNAWARE THAT HIS EVERY MOVE IS BEING OBSERVED THROUGH A HIDDEN SLIT IN THE WALL...





FROM THE SHADOWS DOC HOLLIDAY HAS COME...AND TO THE SHADOWS HE CLINGS! A HARD MAN WITH CRUEL EYES WOEFUL! SILENT, HE DRINKS... UNTIL...

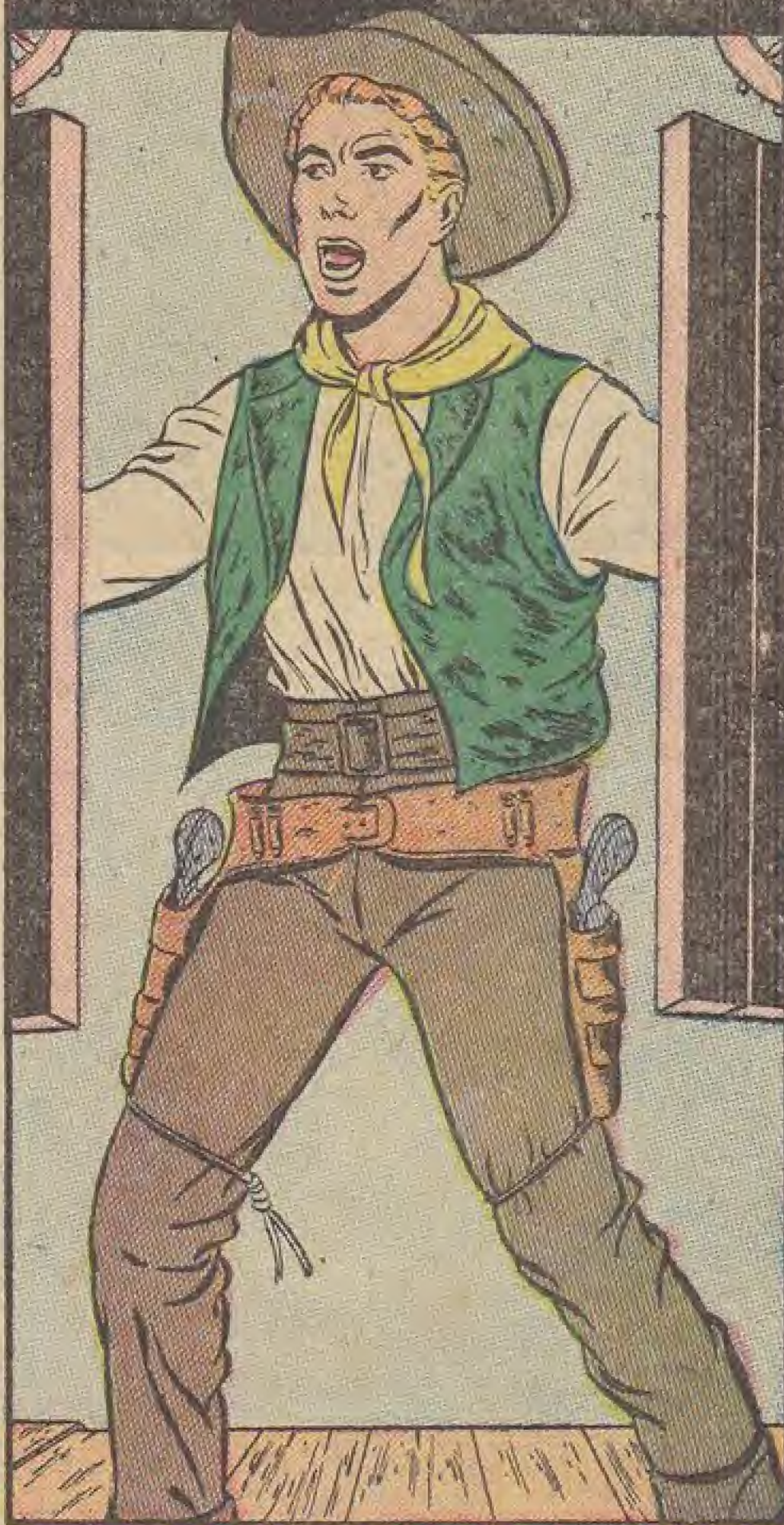


HE BEGINS TO COUGH FEVERISHLY. HE COVERS HIS MOUTH WITH HIS HANDKERCHIEF. HE STANDS WITH HIS BACK TO THE DOOR... BUT HE STAYS ALIVE BECAUSE HE ALWAYS WATCHES WHO ENTERS THE DOOR...AS A MAN WITHOUT FRIENDS MUST...



NOW HE IS ALERT BECAUSE HE HAS SEEN THE SWINGING DOORS FLY OPEN...

WELL, I'LL BE...IT'S DOC HOLLIDAY!



HE HAS SEEN MEN MARCH TOWARD HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE...TO A MAN LIKE DOC HOLLIDAY, THE MEANING IS CLEAR! A KID WHO KNOWS THAT WHOEVER BESTS DOC HOLLIDAY IN A GUN DUEL WILL BECOME FAMOUS OVERNIGHT!

MOVE OVER, MISTER! YUH STANDIN' AT MY PLACE...



EITHER MOVE... OR DRAW, YUH GUN-TOTER! I AIN'T A-SCARED O' YUH...







WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS CALMLY... THE ICY EYES OF THE WEST'S FASTEST GUN-FIGHTER SURVEY THE BODY OF THE WOUNDED YOUTH BEFORE HIM...

THAT'S THE FASTEST PIECE OF GUNPLAY I'VE EVER SEEN!



HOLLIDAY'S OUR MAN! GET HIM IN HERE!



HERE'S TEN GRAND THAT SAYS YOU CAN OUTDRAW BLACK DIAMOND!

THIS'LL BE THE SAFEST INVESTMENT YOU EVER MADE, MISTER!



IT HAD BETTER BE... BECAUSE THE SCORPION DOESN'T TOLERATE FAILURES!



WHAT'S THE COMMOTION, NED?

DOC HOLLIDAY'S GOIN' AROUND AT THE RED DOG SALOON SAYIN' HE'S GONNA RUN YUH OUTA TOWN!



THAT'S NOT LIKE DOC TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY LOOKING FOR GUNPLAY! BUT IF HE'S TRYING TO PROD ME, I'LL OBLIGE!

I'M TAGGING ALONG TO MAKE SURE IT'S A FAIR FIGHT!







COMPLETELY CONFUSED, DOC RETURNS TO THE SHADOWS ONCE MORE! FOR DAYS HE HIDES IN HIS ROOM...



...C-COUGH...

ONE NIGHT, HE WAKES UP TO FIND HIMSELF STARING INTO THE GUN BARREL OF...

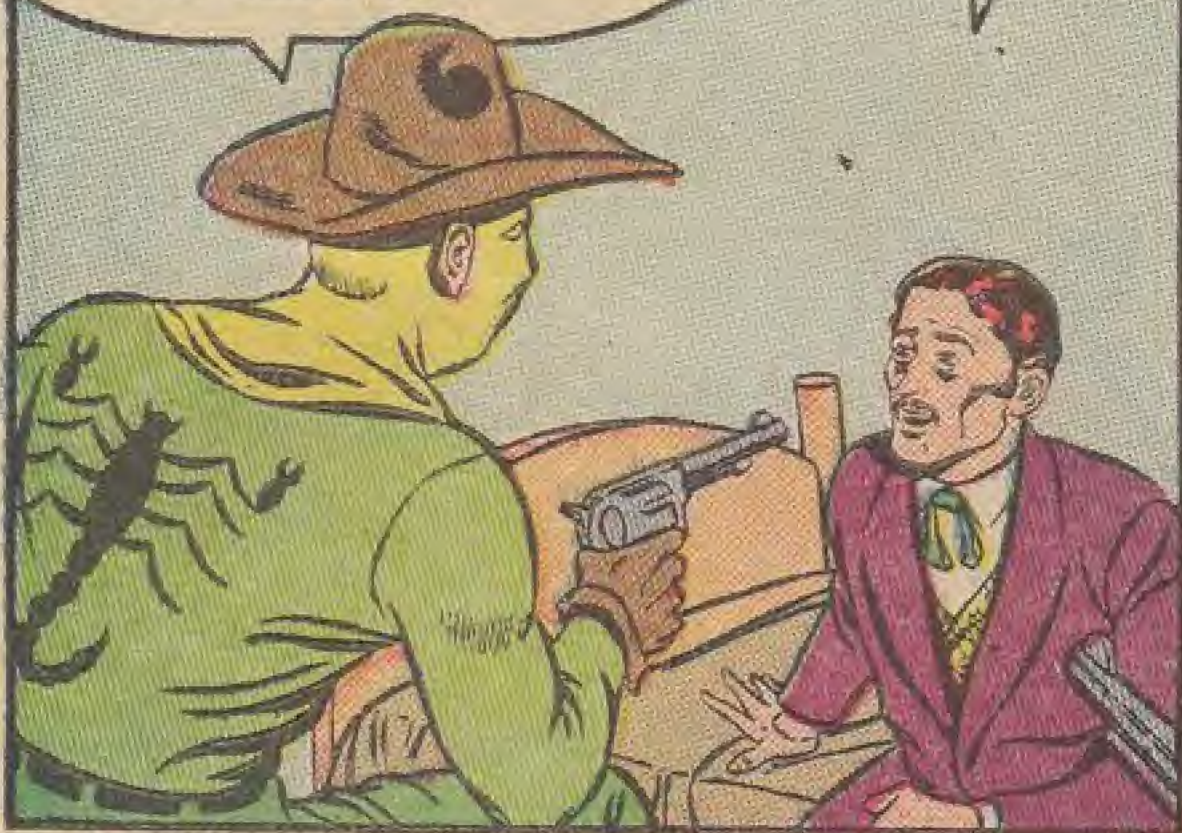


THE SCORPION!  
WH...WHAT THE...?

REACH FOR YOUR  
GUN AND YOU'RE A  
DEAD MAN!

WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO  
TRUST THE DOUBLE CROSSING  
DOC HOLLIDAY! BUT I'M  
GOING TO GIVE YOU TWENTY-  
FOUR HOURS TO GET DIAMOND...  
OR YOU'LL FEEL THE STING OF  
THE SCORPION!

I'LL KEEP MY  
BARGAIN...EVEN  
THOUGH I WAS  
PLUMB LOCO  
TO MAKE IT!

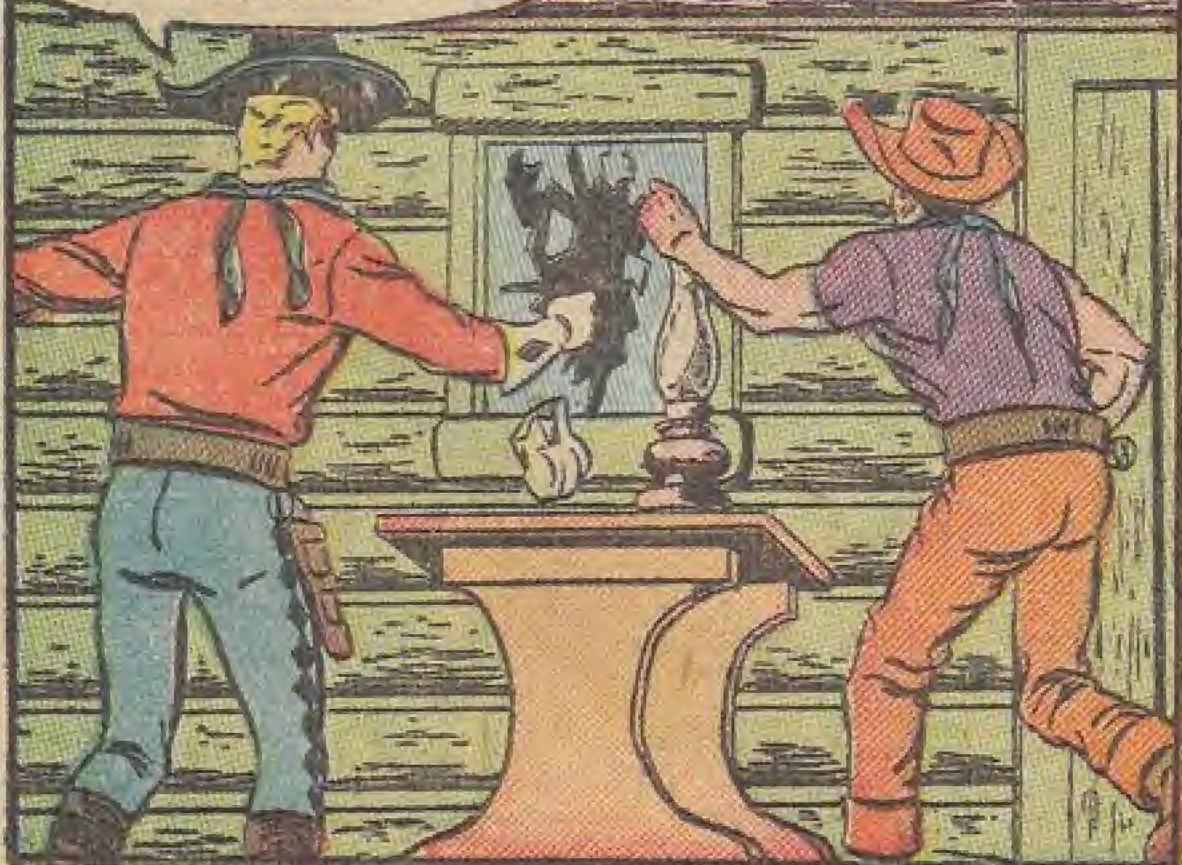


CHANGE YOUR  
MIND, AND  
EVERY OUTLAW  
IN THE WEST  
WILL BE OUT TO  
SALIVATE YOU!  
REMEMBER...  
TWENTY-FOUR  
HOURS!



THAT NIGHT...A ROCK COMES THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE WITH A LOUD CRASH...

WHAT'S THAT... HUH?  
A ROCK WITH A NOTE  
ATTACHED...



"OUR NEXT RENDEZVOUS WILL BE  
AT SUNUP! BE THERE, DIAMOND!  
DOC HOLLIDAY!"





AT DAWN, A SCENE OF STRUGGLE IS COMING TO A HEAD...TWO LONE FIGURES APPEAR IN THE DESERTED STREETS...

I KNOW YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, DIAMOND BUT YOU'LL BE THE FIRST MAN I'M SORRY TO SHOOT!

WHO'S FORCING YOUR HAND, DOC?



BUT AS THE TWO DUELISTS YANK OUT THEIR GUNS... THE SMALL FIGURE OF A CHILD PLUNGES BETWEEN THEM! DIAMOND IS QUICKER THAN DOC HOLLIDAY, AND IS ABLE TO BRING HIS GUNS TO A SUDDEN HALT...

LOOK OUT! A KID!



BUT IT'S TOO LATE, FOR IN THE NEXT INSTANT...DOC'S SHOT FELS THE BOY! BOTH MEN RUSH TO HIS SIDE...

HOLY FISHFRY! WHAT HAVE I DONE...? I WOULDN'T GUN A KID!

IF THIS BOY DIES...YOU'LL HANG!



HE'S BLEEDING BAD! ONLY ONE CHANCE TO SAVE HIM! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PRY THAT BULLET OUT!

OH, NO YOU WON'T!

I MAY BE A MURDERING GUNSLINGER...BUT I'M ALSO A DOCTOR! LET ME OPERATE AND REMOVE THE BULLET! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THE BOY!





**B**URSTING INTO MOTION, DOC HOLLIDAY ACTS TO SAVE HIS YOUNG VICTIM...



I'LL JUST PROBE A LITTLE DEEPER...

**S**ELDOM HAS BLACK DIAMOND SEEN SO IRONIC A TWIST! A MAN WHO HAS DESTROYED LIFE SO OFTEN...NOW FIGHTING TO SAVE LIFE...



...AND HERE'S THE BULLET!

THE KID WILL BE AS GOOD AS NEW IN A FEW WEEKS! AS FOR ME, I'M THROUGH KILLING! I'M GOING TO RETURN THE SCORPION'S MONEY! SO WHAT IF HIS STOOGES GET ME, I'M A DOOMED MAN ANYWAY!

SO HE'S THE TWO-LEGGED COYOTE BEHIND ALL THIS!



YOU KNOW I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN TO FACE TRIAL FOR YOUR CRIMES! AT LEAST IN JAIL YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM THE SCORPION!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I FEEL SOME PEACE, AND JUST AT THE THOUGHT OF PAYING FOR MY CRIMES! LET'S GO, MARSHAL!



**A**FTER DOC HOLLIDAY IS TURNED OVER TO THE SHERIFF, DIAMOND AND BUMPER RIDE TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THE SCORPION...

THERE GO THE WEST'S MIGHTIEST FIGHTERS ON THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER!

BUMPER! I'VE GOT A STRONG HUNCH THE SCORPION'S COMING TO THE END OF HIS ROAD...

...WE'LL BE WAITING TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE!







**GARSON KANE**

HE FOUGHT ALONG SIDE OF RENEGADE INDIANS WHEN THEY ATTACKED A WHITE SETTLEMENT!



**JAMES NORBY**

HE WOUNDED A LAWMAN WHILE STICKING UP A BANK!



**BUCK THOMPSON**

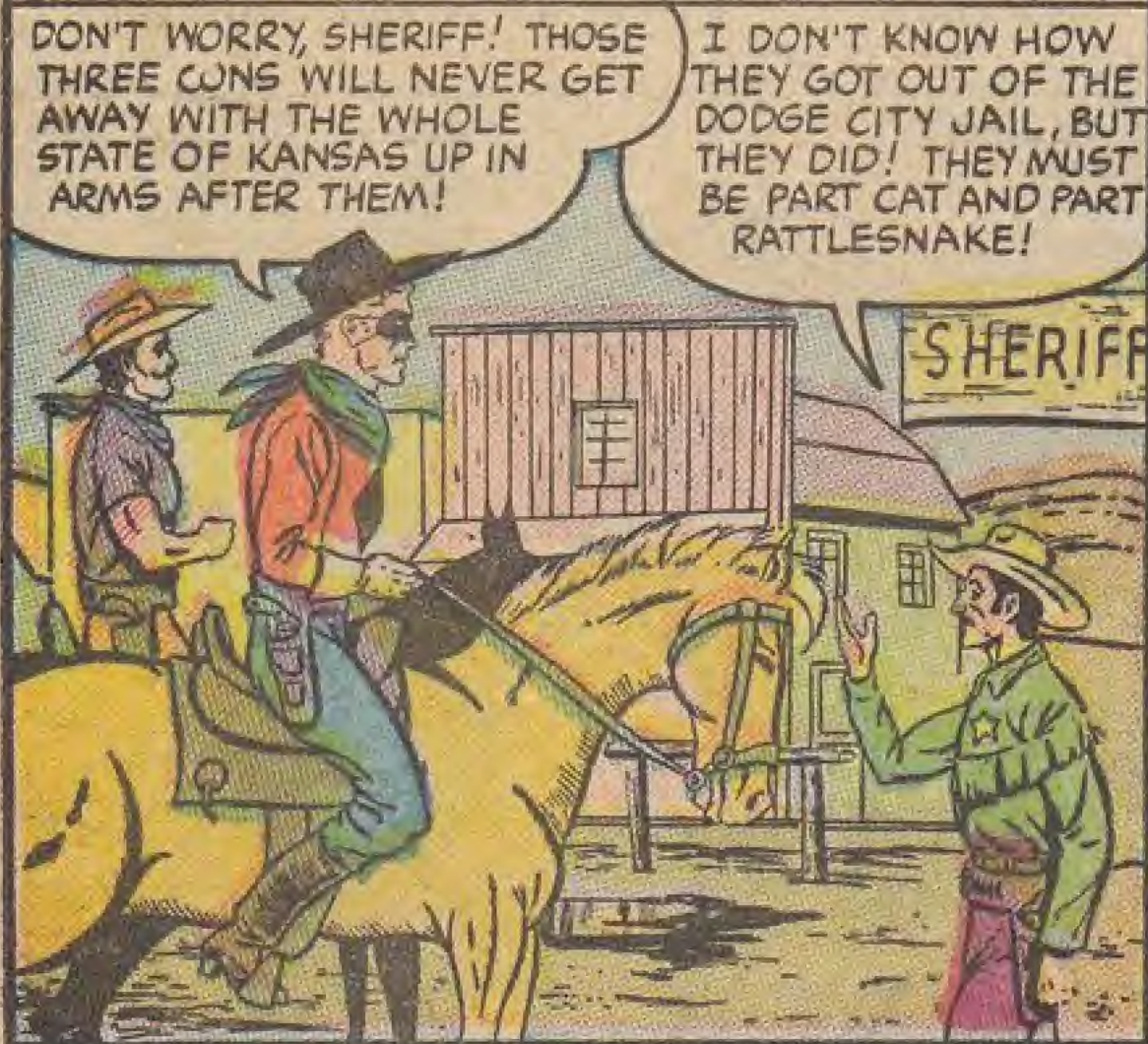
A GAMBLER WHO SHOT TWO MEN WHEN THEY CAUGHT HIM CHEATING IN CARDS!

**N**EVER IN THE ANNALS OF WESTERN HISTORY HAVE ANY THREE CONVICTS HAD A MORE INFAMOUS RECORD THAN GARSON KANE, JAMES NORBY AND BUCK THOMPSON! WHEN THEY BREAK OUT OF DODGE CITY JAIL, SHERIFF WYATT EARP CALLS ON BLACK DIAMOND FOR HELP IN THEIR CAPTURE! DIAMOND PROVES HIS RIGHT TO HOLD THE MARSHAL'S BADGE... AS HE MATCHES BRAINS AND BULLETS AGAINST THE DESPERADOES WHO...

# ESCAPED!



**I**N DODGE CITY, BLACK DIAMOND AND HIS FIGHTING AIDE, BUMPER, VISIT SHERIFF WYATT EARP...



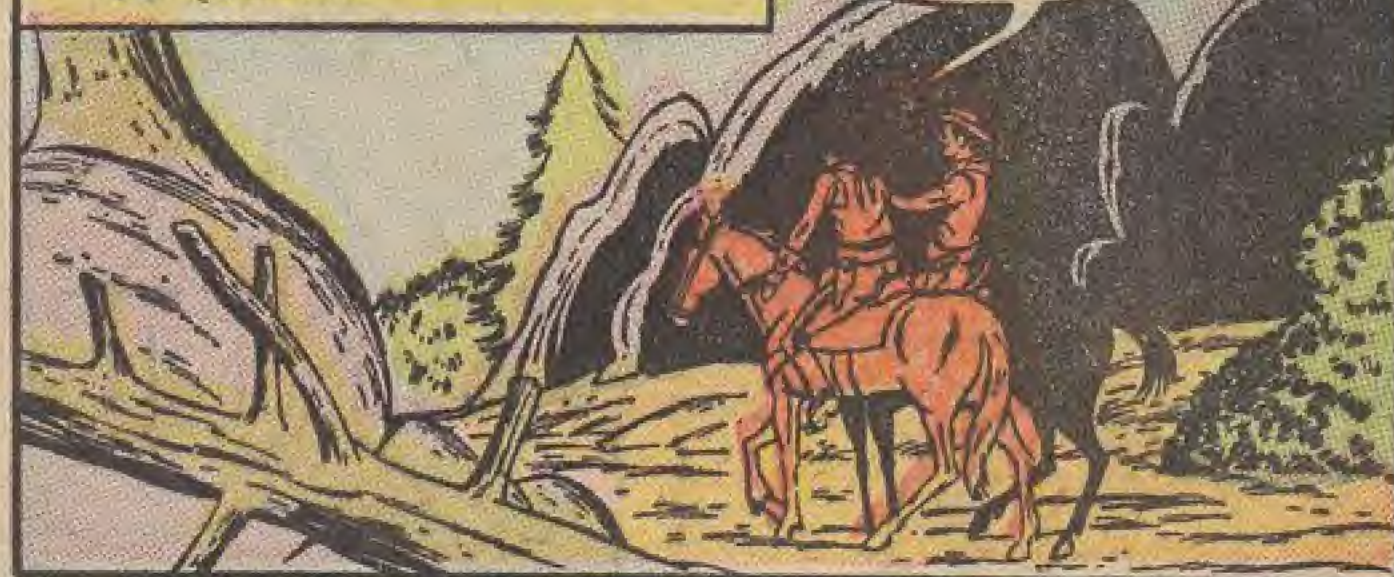
**E**ARP WARNS DIAMOND OF THE DANGER...



THEY'RE HEADED NORTH AND THEY WON'T LEAVE ANY TRACKS! BUT IF I KNOW THESE MEN, THEY'LL LEAVE A TRAIL OF BLOOD BEHIND THEM!

**D**IAMOND AND BUMPER PICK UP THE TRAIL, BUT TRAGICALLY, EARP'S WORDS RING TRUE ALL TOO SOON...

THAT LOOKS LIKE SMOKE! LET'S GO...



**H**ARD RIDING BRINGS THEM TO A FARMHOUSE, WHERE THEY ARE STUNNED TO SEE...



**L**ATER, UNDER DIAMOND AND BUMPER'S EXPERT FIRST-AID CARE...













**T**HEN...ACCORDING TO PLAN...THE THREE FUGITIVES AND THEIR CAPTIVE RIDE RIGHT INTO THE TRAP...

IT'S THE LAW!  
EVERY MAN FOR  
HIMSELF...

GRAB RUNNING DEER!  
WE'LL USE HIM AS A  
SHIELD!



**B**UCK THOMPSON LAGS BEHIND TO HOLD THE INDIAN BOY...

OKAY, KID! IT'S GONNA  
BE YOU AND ME  
OUTA HERE TO-  
GETHER...



**B**LACK DIAMOND'S WELL-AIMED BULLET ACCOMPLISHES ITS PURPOSE! IT FELS THOMPSON, AND SAVES RUNNING DEER'S LIFE! THE TWO REMAINING CONVICTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PAUSE AND MAKE THEIR BREAK ACROSS THE NARROW BRIDGE, THEN WRECKING IT!

QUICK, DIAMOND! WE'VE GOT TO GRAB  
THOSE TWO BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE  
THEIR GETAWAY!

WE'LL HAVE TO  
CIRCLE AROUND!  
THANKS FOR YOUR  
HELP, CHIEF! BUMPER  
AND I CAN HANDLE  
IT FROM HERE ON IN!



**T**HE RENEWED TRAIL LEADS TO AN OLD PROSPECTOR'S CABIN WHERE...

HIT THE DIRT,  
BUMPER! THEY'RE  
HIDING OUT IN  
THAT CABIN DOWN  
THERE!

DON'T COME ANY  
CLOSER! THE OLD  
COUPLE ARE HERE  
WITH US!



**W**HILE BUMPER HOLDS THE CONVICT'S ATTENTION, DIAMOND COMPLETES THE PROCESS OF LOWERING HIMSELF ON TO THE ROOF OF THE CABIN...



NOW I KNOW  
HOW SANTA  
CLAUS MUST  
FEEL...





**I**N THE NEXT INSTANT... DIAMOND SLIDES OUT OF THE FIREPLACE, GUN BLAZING...



**M**ORBY GOES DOWN UNDER DIAMOND'S GUNS, BUT KANE MAKES IT OUT THE DOOR...



**D**IAMOND RESUMES THE CHASE AND SWIFTLY CLOSES IN ON GARSON KANE, THE REMAINING CONVICT...



**A**GAIN THE GRIM MANHUNT IS ON! BUT THIS TIME, BLACK DIAMOND IS ALONE AGAINST A DESPERATE OUTLAW...



**B**UT LIKE THE CORNERED FOX HE IS, KANE PLAYS HIS LAST HAND! HE DOUBLES BACK TO THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE AND SNEAKS UP ON DIAMOND...







**A**BOVE THE CONVICT'S HEAD, THE KEEN-EYED MARSHAL SEES SOME DETACHED ROCKS! HE STALLS FOR TIME, HOPING THE LOUD YELLING WILL CAUSE VIBRATIONS AND JAR THEM LOOSE...



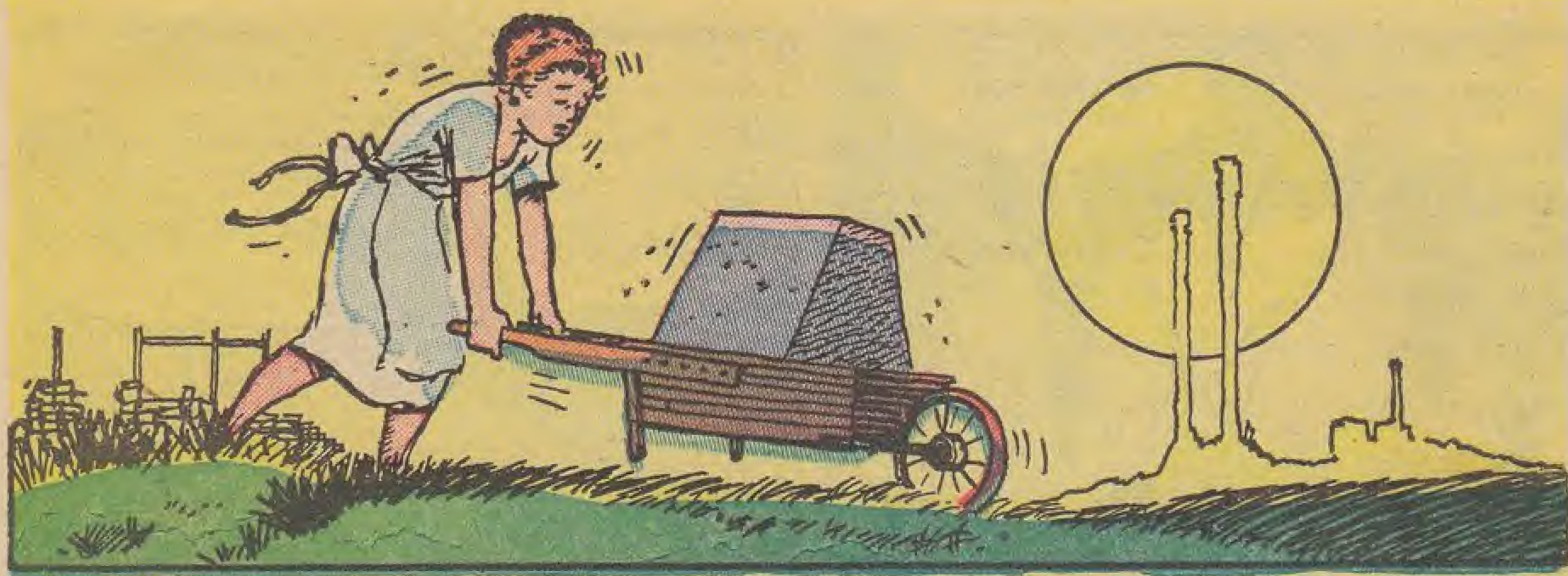
**L**ADY LUCK IS ON DIAMOND'S SIDE, BECAUSE AT THAT MOMENT, THE ROCKS PELT DOWN ON THE CONVICT..



**B**ACK AT THE DODGE CITY JAIL...







# LOST LITTLE JOY

by Wayne Bracone

There are so many stories about the Old West that Black Diamond has told me around a campfire, that sometimes I don't know which one to tell you.

Of course, most of the Black Diamond's exploits, as U. S. Marshal, were in the cattle country, in Montana, Wyoming and way down deep in Texas.

One of the most romantic states, however, is Nevada, which in the early days was wild and wooly indeed, but most of the activity centered around mining booms, because most of the desert area was too dry and parched for cattle grazing. Besides who had time to raise cattle when there were millions of dollars in gold and silver waiting to be taken from the ground.

Nevada was always a fabulous state. Untold fortunes were made in Nevada long before Las Vegas had a population of 500 people. Wherever prospectors struck gold, a boom town was built. It flourished for a few years and died. But during those few years these desert oases presented a rich and gay life, unmatched in New York, London or Paris. Deluxe dance halls were built, some of them with three bands to play, and hotels rivaled the best in the big cities. Newly rich prospectors dined formally in evening clothes, and the biggest and best theaters of the day, starring the world's most noted actors, sprang up in a dozen or more Nevada towns. There were luxurious and gaudy opera houses in Carson City, Reno, Tonapah and Goldfield, to name a few.

Tourists will find no area more fascinating today than Nevada, whether it be the unbelievable magic city of Las Vegas or the ghost town of Rhyolite. Nevada is a big state, but there are few people; wide-open spaces, beautiful highways and countless sights of thrilling historic interest. Go There!

This is a story of other days — the time of the first big boom in Goldfield. Goldfield, today, has only a handful of people and dozens of long-abandoned houses, buildings and homes. Some day, Black Diamond thinks it will be a boom town again because any area which produced so much gold, silver and other precious metals is bound to develop fabulously rich uranium properties.



But way back in 1900 or thereabouts, when fortunes were being made by prospectors and promoters, there were some who could hardly make ends meet. One of these families, long since forgotten, had a beautiful little daughter named Joy. Now one of the hazards of frontier life at the time was lack of water, and epidemic disease, especially a disease known as the Black Plague, was common.

Little Joy fell sick of the Black Plague — desperately sick. While her father was miles away in the desert, her devoted mother tendered her with every care. But there was no water to cool the fever, and no doctor to give help. Hour after hour, day and night, Joy's mother, frantic and tearful, kept watch over her bedside. Then on the third night Joy died.

The mother knew that she and her husband were so poor that they could not stay in Goldfield, even in the midst of this big boom. The local undertaker buried little Joy on the outskirts of town in a crude makeshift desert cemetery.

The mother could not bear the thought of leaving her darling daughter in an unmarked grave among the sagebrush and Joshua trees. And this was the amazing thing!

The mother was not strong, but she had a God-given, almost supernatural, strength, because of her devotion to her dear daughter. During the night she took a wheelbarrow that was handy in the yard and went down the main street to a plot where a new hotel was under construction. The keystone had not yet been put in place. Normally, it would take three men to lift it, yet she, alone, lifted this huge stone into the wheelbarrow and pushed it almost three miles to the cemetery where little Joy lay buried.

With superhuman strength she pushed the keystone into position to mark the grave and then on the upright stone, with a chisel and hammer, she marked the letters:—

## JOY

Then she went home to greet her returning husband and both packed and left Goldfield forever.

Perhaps it is not strange that no one reported the theft and that no posse went after the lady, who took the keystone. This brave father and mother are long since forgotten, even their names are unknown. But every year some of the good people of Goldfield on Decoration Day have gone out to the cemetery and placed flowers on the grave of little Joy.

And if you go in your travels to what is left of old Goldfield and ask some oldtimer the way to the old cemetery, you will see the keystone marker on the grave of little Joy — and I'll bet you'll see a bunch of flowers on the grave—even after 55 years!





THE PHANTOM HORSEMEN RODE... AND EVEN BLACK DIAMOND HAD TO ADMIT THEY HAD HIM BAFFLED! THE DREADFUL FIGURES COULD CERTAINLY BE SEEN, BUT BULLETS SEEMED TO DO THEM NO HARM! WHAT SECRET LAY BEHIND THE AWFUL APPARITION THAT THREATENED THE PEACEFUL TOWN OF HARD LUCK? ONLY BLACK DIAMOND, HEROIC MARSHAL OF THE WEST, DARED TO FACE THE TERROR OF THE UNKNOWN IN A GRIM ATTEMPT TO EXPOSE THE...

# GHOST RIDERS from the HILLS

L-LOOK! IT'S THE GHOSTS...  
OF THE LOST BATTALION...  
RETURNED FROM THE DEAD!

NO! IT  
CAN'T BE!



NIGHTTIME... AND A PALE MOON SHINES DOWN UPON THE SLOPING GRAZINGLANDS OF HARD LUCK VALLEY AS BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER RIDE THE TRAILS...

HOLD IT, DIAMOND!  
WAS THAT A SCREAM  
I HEARD...?

SURE SOUNDED LIKE  
ONE! LET'S FIND OUT!



MINUTES LATER, THEY RIDE INTO A ROCKY GORGE WHERE THEY COME UPON A FEAR-CRAZED OLD RANCHER...

I SAW 'EM! THE GHOST  
RIDERS... THEY CAME OUTA  
NOWHERE, MARSHAL! I  
FIRED AT 'EM, BUT THEY  
KEPT FLOATIN' RIGHT  
TOWARD ME...

STEADY, THERE!  
YOU KNOW THERE  
AREN'T ANY  
GHOSTS!





SOON AFTER... AT THE OLD MAN'S RANCH, DIAMOND EXPLAINS THE STRANGE EPISODE TO HIS DAUGHTER...

...SO YOU SEE MA'AM, HE JUST HAD A BAD SHOCK! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT ONCE YOU GET HIM INTO BED!

POOR DAD!

DON'T YOU GO TREATIN' ME LIKE A CRAZY OLD CODGER TOO! I-I KNOW WHAT I SAW, DAUGHTER! THEY **WERE** GHOSTS! AN' THEY WERE A-GLOWIN' TOO!



WITH THE OLD MAN TUCKED SAFELY AWAY IN BED, BLACK DIAMOND AND THE GIRL CONFER...

YOU AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, MARSHAL... BUT I'VE GOT TO AGREE WITH DAD, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME QUEER GOINGS-ON! THAT IS EVER SINCE THIS TOWN ACQUIRED THE HANDLE OF "HARD LUCK!"



"...THE VALLEY GOT ITS NAME DURING THE APACHE UPRISING WHEN A BATTALION OF SOLDIERS RODE INTO AN AMBUSH AND WERE MASSACRED! IT'S SAID THAT ON CERTAIN NIGHTS THEIR SPIRITS GET UP AND RIDE OUT ON PATROL..."

WH-WHAT IN BLAZES... I-I MUST BE SEEING THINGS! GLOWING RIDERS COMING... L-LOOK!

GHOSTS... I'M GETTIN' OUT OF THIS VALLEY PRONTO!



"THE HARDIER TOWNSPEOPLE REMAINED... LIKE POOR WILL YANCEY, ONE OF THE BEST BRONC-BUSTERS IN THESE PARTS! FELL OFF HIS OWN HORSE ONE DAY AND WAS FATALLY INJURED..."

THE HORSE AIN'T BEEN BORN YET THAT COULD THROW YANCEY! IT MUST BE THIS VALLEY! WE'VE BEEN JINXED!



"...THEN THE DREADED HOOF-IN-MOUTH DISEASE CAME AND WIPED OUT ENTIRE HERDS OF CATTLE..."

THEY'RE ALL DEAD! FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HOOF-IN-MOUTH DISEASE IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!

THIS WHOLE VALLEY'S BEEN CURSED!



I GUESS THAT'S WHY THE NAME "HARD LUCK VALLEY" STUCK TO THIS TOWN... AND STUCK HARD! IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS HERE, EVERYONE LEFT WILL PACK UP AND LEAVE!

I'LL BET MY SADDLE AGAINST A SACK OF OATS THAT WHOEVER CAUSED THESE MISFORTUNES WAS NO GHOST! THERE'S SOME CROOKED WORK AFOOT HERE... AND BEFORE WE LEAVE, BUMPER AND I ARE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

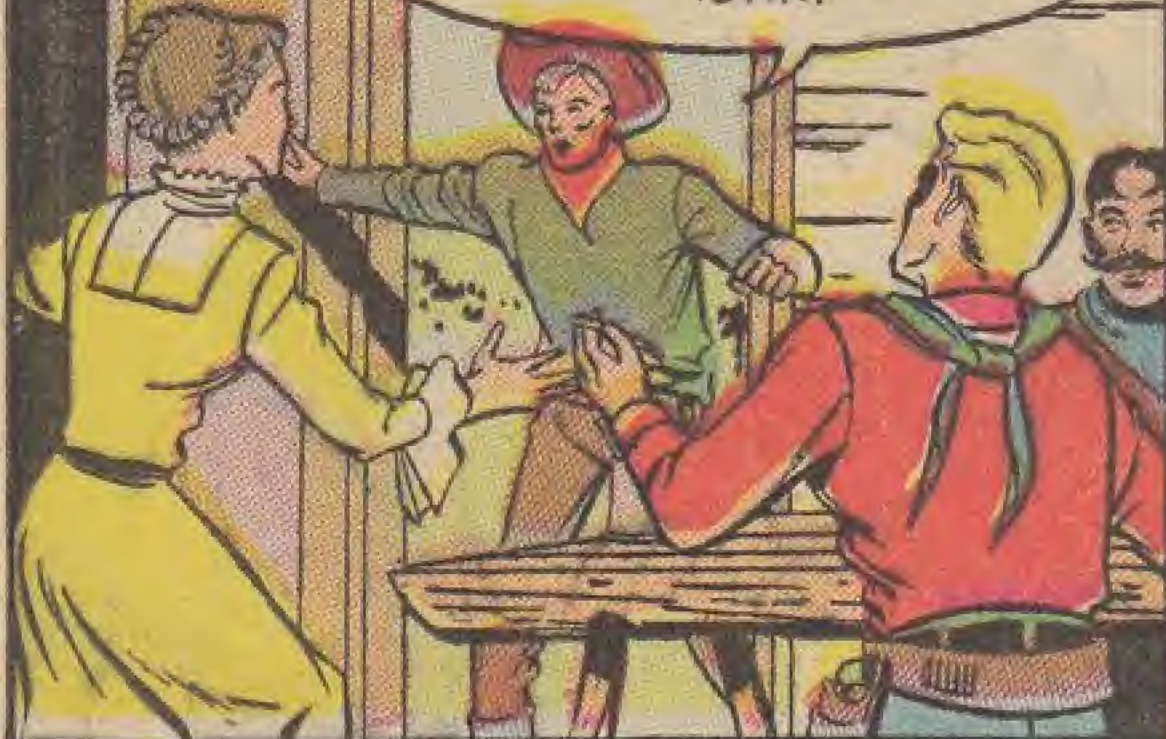




THE NEXT MORNING, DIAMOND AND BUMPER PREPARE TO EAT BREAKFAST! SUDDENLY, THE RANCH FOREMAN RUSHES IN WITH OMINOUS NEWS...

WHAT IS IT, TOM... MORE TROUBLE?

BIG PRAIRIE FIRE, MA'AM! RANCHES... BARNs... EVERYTHING!... WENT DOWN LIKE STRAWS! THE RANCHERS PUT IT OUT AND NOW THEY'RE CALLING A MEETING IN TOWN!



SOON AFTER IN TOWN, DIAMOND AND BUMPER REIN UP TO HEAR JEFFERSON SLOANE, THE TOWN BANKER ADDRESS THE RANCHERS...

I'LL BUY YOUR RANCHES AT TEN DOLLARS AN ACRE!

THAT'S A MIGHTY LOW PRICE, MR. SLOANE! BUT I RECKON WE'VE ALL HAD ENOUGH OF HARD LUCK VALLEY! I'M WILLIN' TO SELL!

THAT'S PLUMB LOCO TALK IF I EVER HEARD IT!



...ARE YOU MEN JUST GOING TO GIVE UP YOUR HARD EARNED LAND WITHOUT A FIGHT... WITHOUT AT LEAST AN INVESTIGATION! ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU GIVE ME TWO DAYS TO TRY TO SAVE YOUR RANCHES!

IF HE'S WILLIN' TO HELP US, I SAY LET'S GIVE HIM A CHANCE!

LEAD THE WAY, MARSHAL! WE'RE WITH YOU!



I SURE HOPE YOU CAN LIVE UP TO YOUR PROMISES, MISTER, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN RENEW MY OFFER TO THESE PEOPLE!

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'RE MIGHTY ANXIOUS TO PRESSURE THEM INTO SELLING! WHAT'S REALLY YOUR GAME, SLOANE...?



THIS OUGHT TO MAKE YOU QUIT YOUR CHIRPING, CANARY!

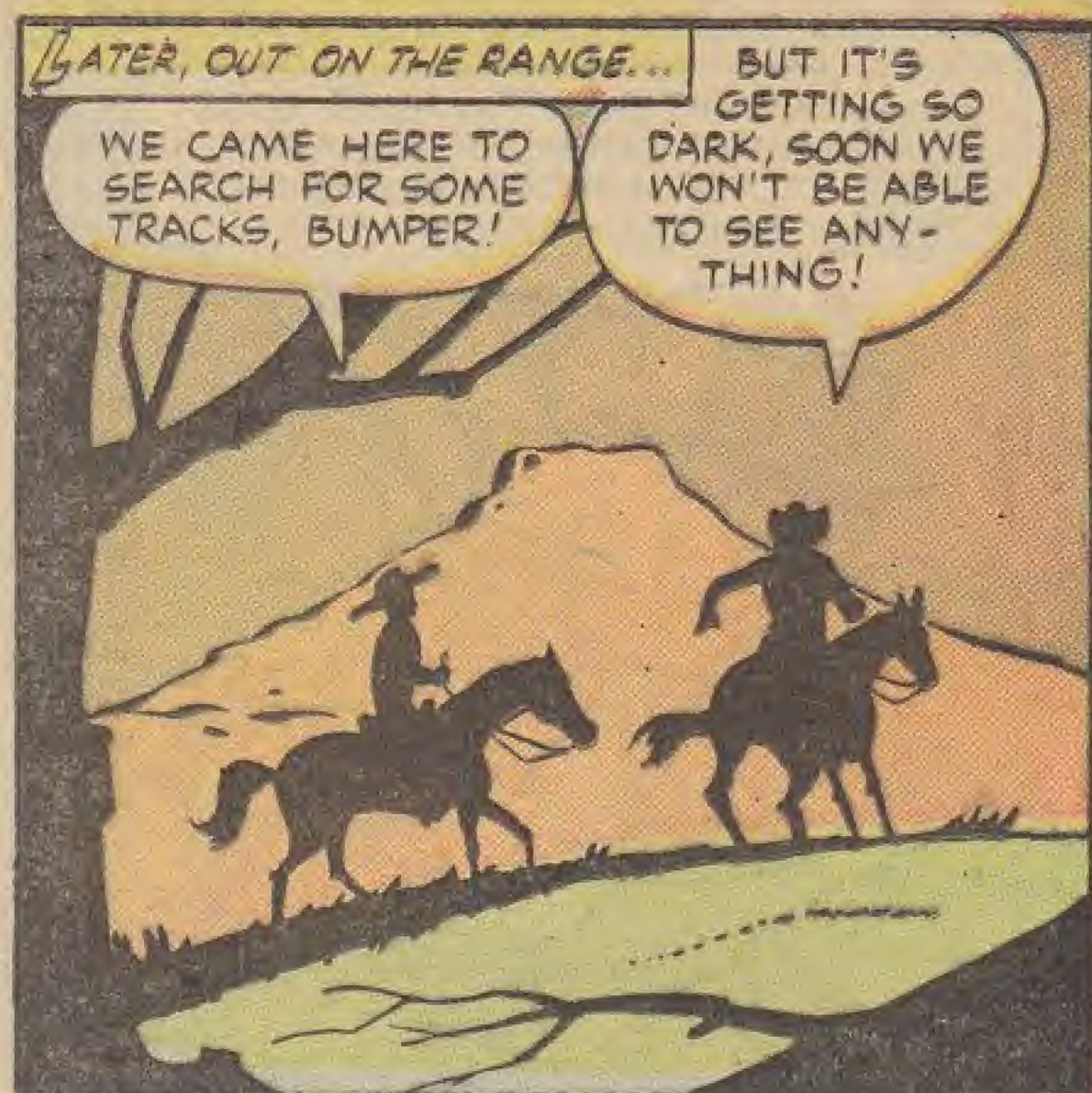
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT...



...CAUSE IT TAKES MORE'N THAT TO MAKE THIS CANARY STOP CHIRPING!









JUST THEN, BUMPER ACCIDENTALLY KICKS SOME ROCKS...

WHAT'S THAT... HUH? LOOK WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN, BOYS! BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER-- GET 'EM!



AS SLOANE AND HIS MEN GANG UP ON THEIR INTRUDERS, A FIGHT ENSUES...



DIAMOND AND BUMPER ACT SWIFTLY AND FIGHT THE GANG OFF AGAIN AND AGAIN! REPELLED BY ROCK HARD FISTS, THE OWLHOOTS RESORT TO THEIR FIREARMS...



AND THE COURAGEOUS TEAM OF BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER ARE FINALLY SUBDUED...

MITE TOUGH, WEREN'T THEY?

YEAH! BUT THEY WON'T BE, ALL TIED UP!



WELL, DIAMOND! SO YOU FOUND OUT THAT WE USE PHOSPHOROUS TO FOOL THE TOWN INTO THINKING WE'RE GHOSTS! DID YOU KNOW THAT I ALSO USED BACTERIA CULTURES TO POLLUTE THE CATTLE'S DRINKING WATER! I HAVE NO END OF TRICKS TO MAKE THE STUPID RANCHERS THINK THIS VALLEY IS JINXED! YOU SEE, THERE'S A RAILROAD COMING THROUGH THIS VALLEY AND THE LAND WILL BE WORTH A FORTUNE!



WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS, SLOANE?

WHY NOT! YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO REPEAT IT! I'M GOING TO THE TOWN MEETING TONIGHT! IF THE RANCHERS DON'T SELL OUT, MY BOYS WILL BE STANDING BY, READY TO BURN THE VALLEY!







YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE US HERE TIED UP?

DON'T WORRY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU TWO WHEN I GET BACK! MEANWHILE, ZACK AND LEFTY WILL KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOU!



REALIZING HIS FIRST TASK IS TO BREAK HIS BONDS, DIAMOND DECIDES TO TRY A CERTAIN MANEUVER! HE LEANS BACK, STRAINING EVERY MUSCLE...TILL HE REACHES THE SHARP EDGES OF HIS SPURS!

HURRY UP! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THOSE OWLHOOTS WILL LET ME BLOCK YOU!



THEN...

SAY, WOULD ONE OF YOU FELLOWS GET A CIGARETTE OUT OF MY POCKET?

OKAY! BUT NO TRICKS...



YOU AND ME ARE GOING TO EXCHANGE PLACES, LEFTY!

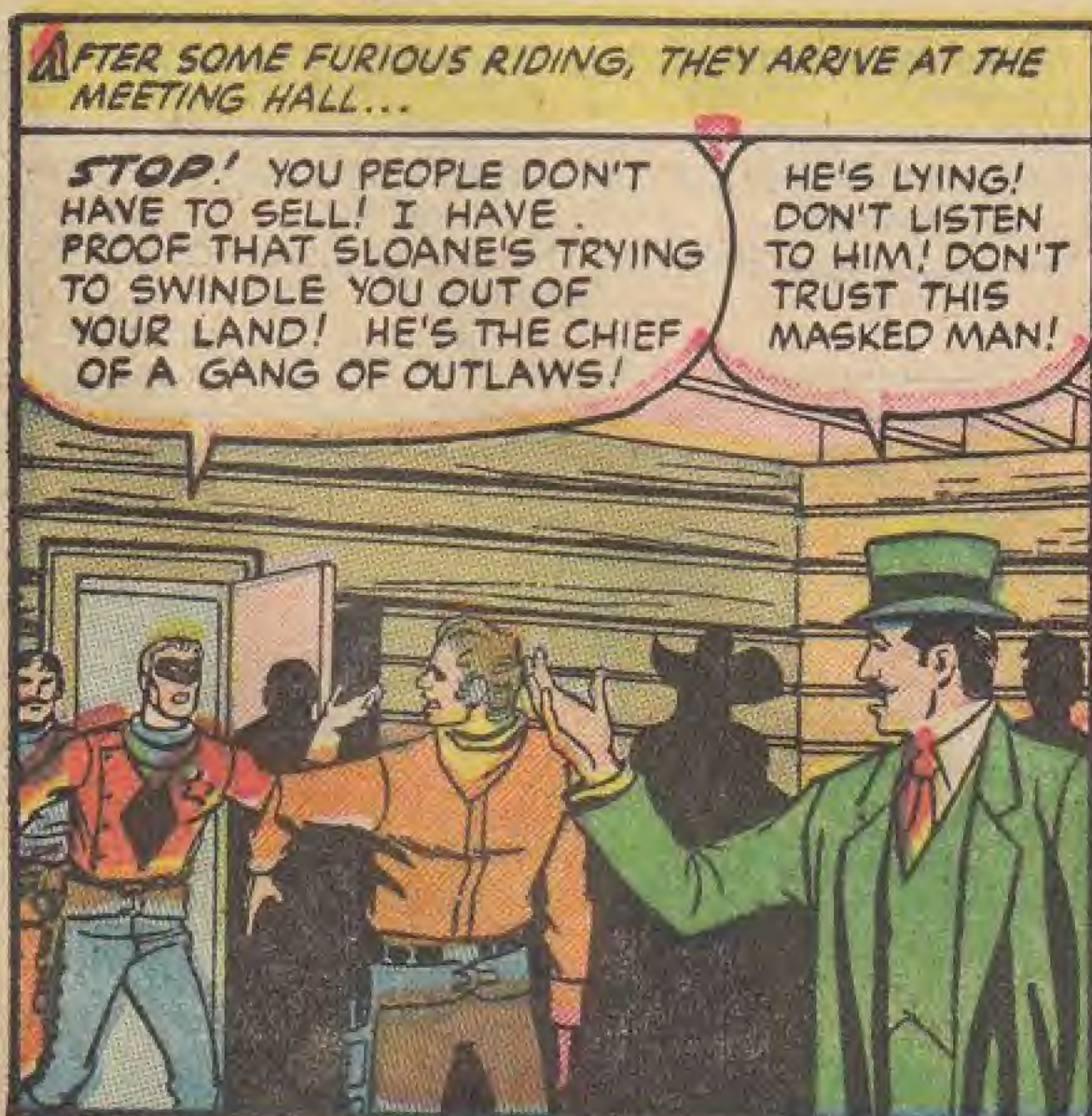
HEY!



LIGHTNING LIKE THE OWLHOOTS ARE OVERPOWERED...

LET'S SCRATCH GRAVEL, BUMPER! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT MEETING!

WE'RE AS GOOD AS THERE ALREADY!



AFTER SOME FURIOUS RIDING, THEY ARRIVE AT THE MEETING HALL...

STOP! YOU PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO SELL! I HAVE PROOF THAT SLOANE'S TRYING TO SWINDLE YOU OUT OF YOUR LAND! HE'S THE CHIEF OF A GANG OF OUTLAWS!

HE'S LYING! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! DON'T TRUST THIS MASKED MAN!



SOMEONE TURN OUT THE LIGHTS AND WE'LL SEE WHO'S LYING!

NO! NO... DON'T!



**T**URNING DOWN THE LANTERN'S WICK, BLACK DIAMOND SHOWS THE RANCHERS HOW THE GHOST RIDERS MAKE THEIR CLOTHING AND HORSES GLOW...

NOW YOU CAN SEE HOW HIS HANDS SHINE IN THE DARK!

THE MARSHAL'S RIGHT! SLOANE'S BEEN TRYING TO CHEAT US!



I FIGURED HE MIGHT STILL HAVE THE PHOSPHORUS ON HIS HANDS! BUT THERE'S THE REST OF HIS GANG... DISGUISED AS GHOSTS, WAITING UP IN THE HILLS TO BURN THE VALLEY IF YOU DON'T SELL OUT!

AFTER THEM! WE CAN'T LET THOSE CROOKS GET AWAY WITH THIS!



**U**NDER DIAMOND'S DIRECTION, A POSSE IS SWIFTLY FORMED AND SOON AFTER, THEY TAKE THE OWL-HOOTS BY SURPRISE...

IT'S BLACK DIAMOND AND THE RANCHERS! GO FER YOUR SHOOTIN'-IRONS, QUICK!



**T**HE BRIEF BATTLE COMES TO A HALT WHEN SLOANE'S MEN SURRENDER...

THEY'VE GOT US...

SURE HAVE! NOW YOU "GHOSTS" CAN KEEP THE HEAD SPOOK COMPANY IN JAIL!



HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU ENOUGH, MARSHAL? YOU'VE SAVED OUR HOMES!

DON'T TRY! JUST REMEMBER FEAR AND SUPERSTITION CAN LEAD TO DISASTER!



THEM VARMINTS HAD EVERYTHING FIGURED! BUT THEY DIDN'T RECKON ON BLACK DIAMOND!

YESSIREE! DIAMOND SURE UPSET THEIR APPLE CART! WHAT A GREAT MARSHAL HE IS!







# RED FIRE

and his horse "WHITE LIGHTNING"

## in "The Sagebrush Kid's Last Shot!"

THERE'S NOTHING MORE NERVE-WRACKING OR MORE DANGEROUS THAN FIGHTING THE UNKNOWN. RIDE THEN WITH RED FIRE AS HE SLAPS FOR LEATHER WITH A WHOLE NEST OF RUSTLERS AND GUNHAWKS WHEN HE HEADS FOR DAWSON CITY IN SEARCH OF AN HOMBRE WITH A SIX-GUN REPUTATION.



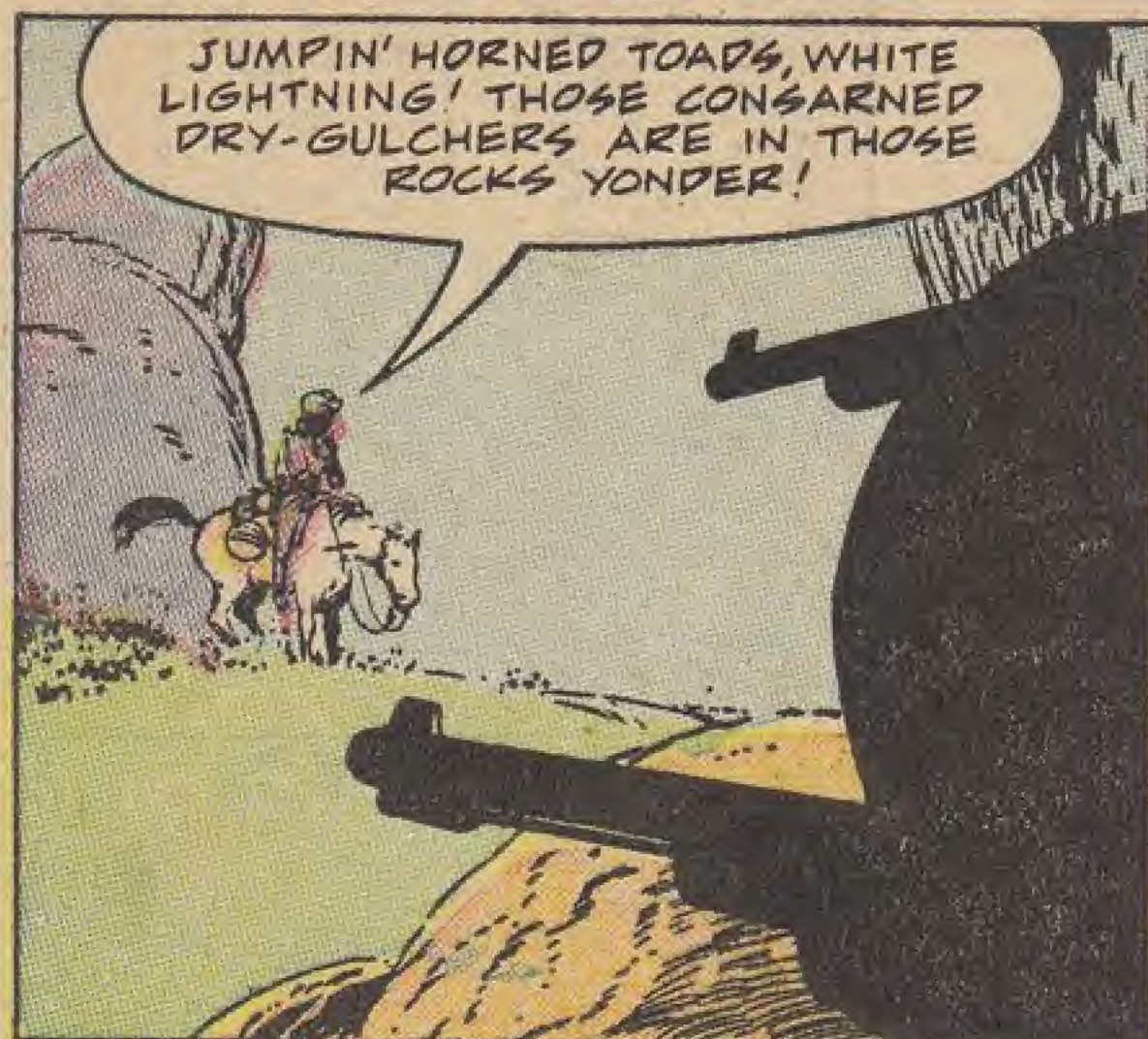
WHAT THE...  
AMBUSH!

TWANG!

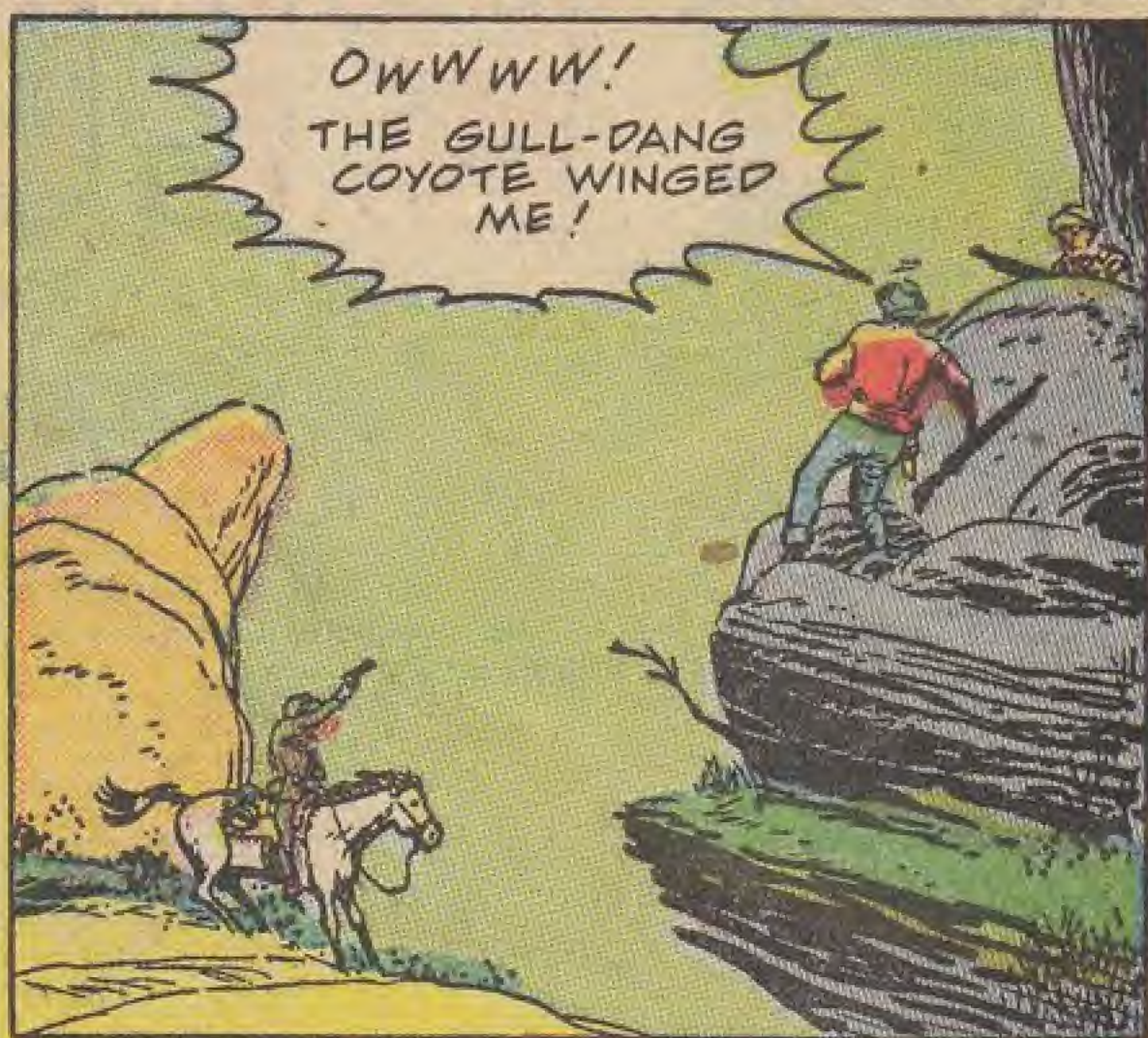
MAYBE THIS'LL TEACH  
THAT SNOOPIN' COYOTE  
NOT TO PROWL THESE  
PARTS.



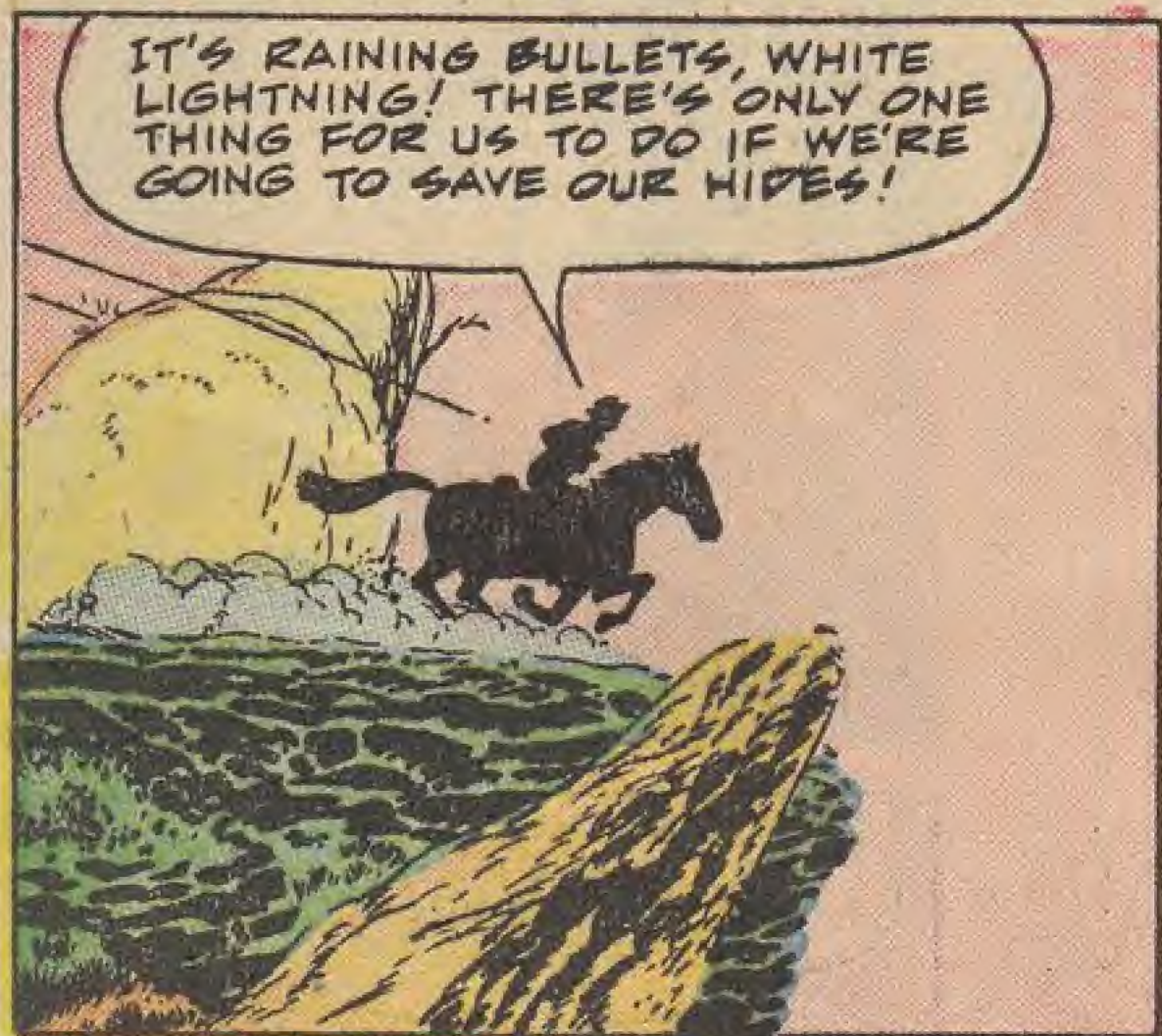
RED FIRE WHIRLS ABOUT WITH HIS  
BLAZING SIX-GUN...



...THAT FINDS ITS MARK IN THE  
SHOULDER OF ONE OF THE GUNHAWKS!



BEING GREATLY OUTNUMBERED, RED  
FIRE MAKES A DESPERATE DECISION

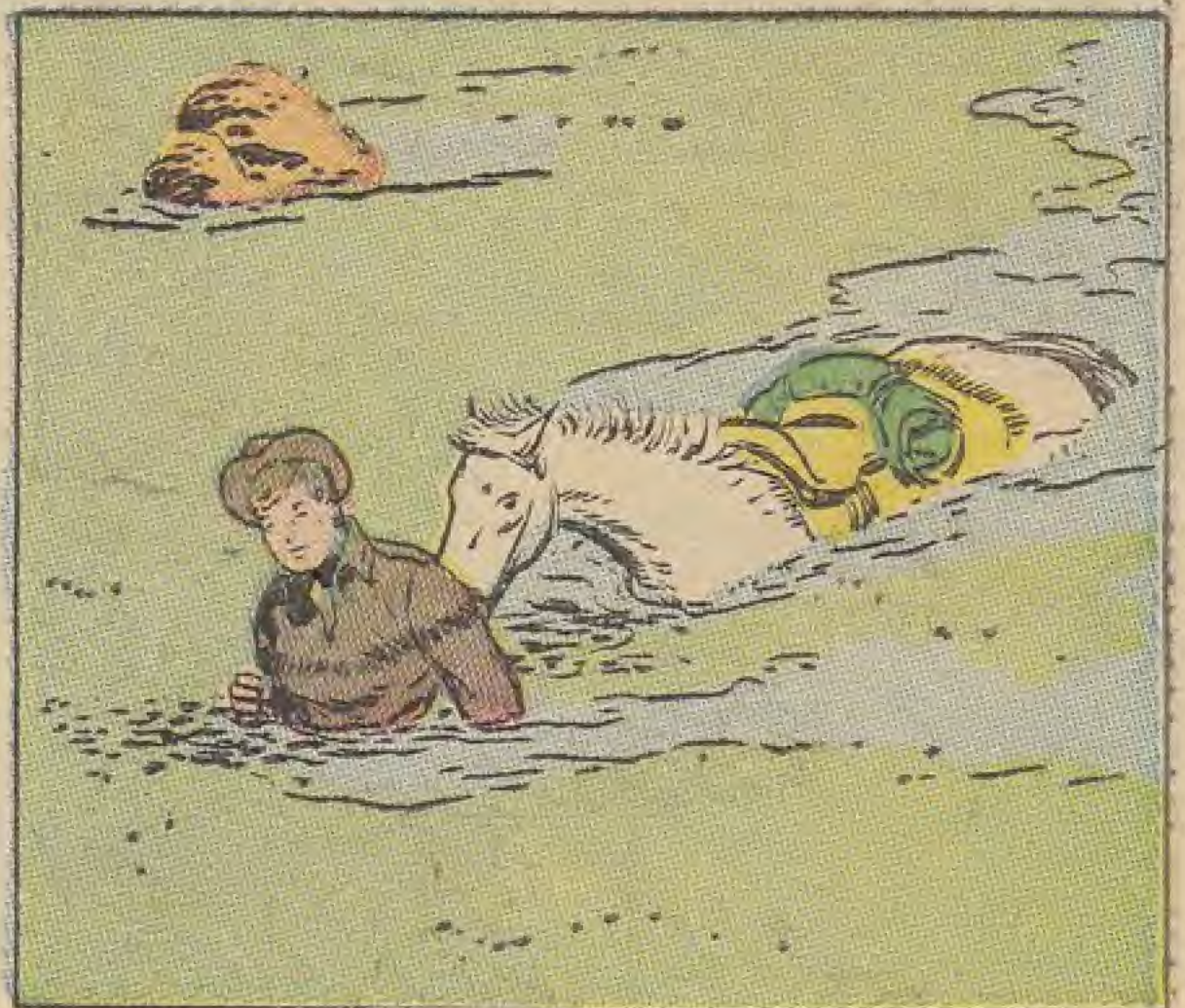




SEEING IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A BEAD ON HIM ANYMORE THE GUNHAWKS GAVE UP AND HEADED FOR THE HILLS.



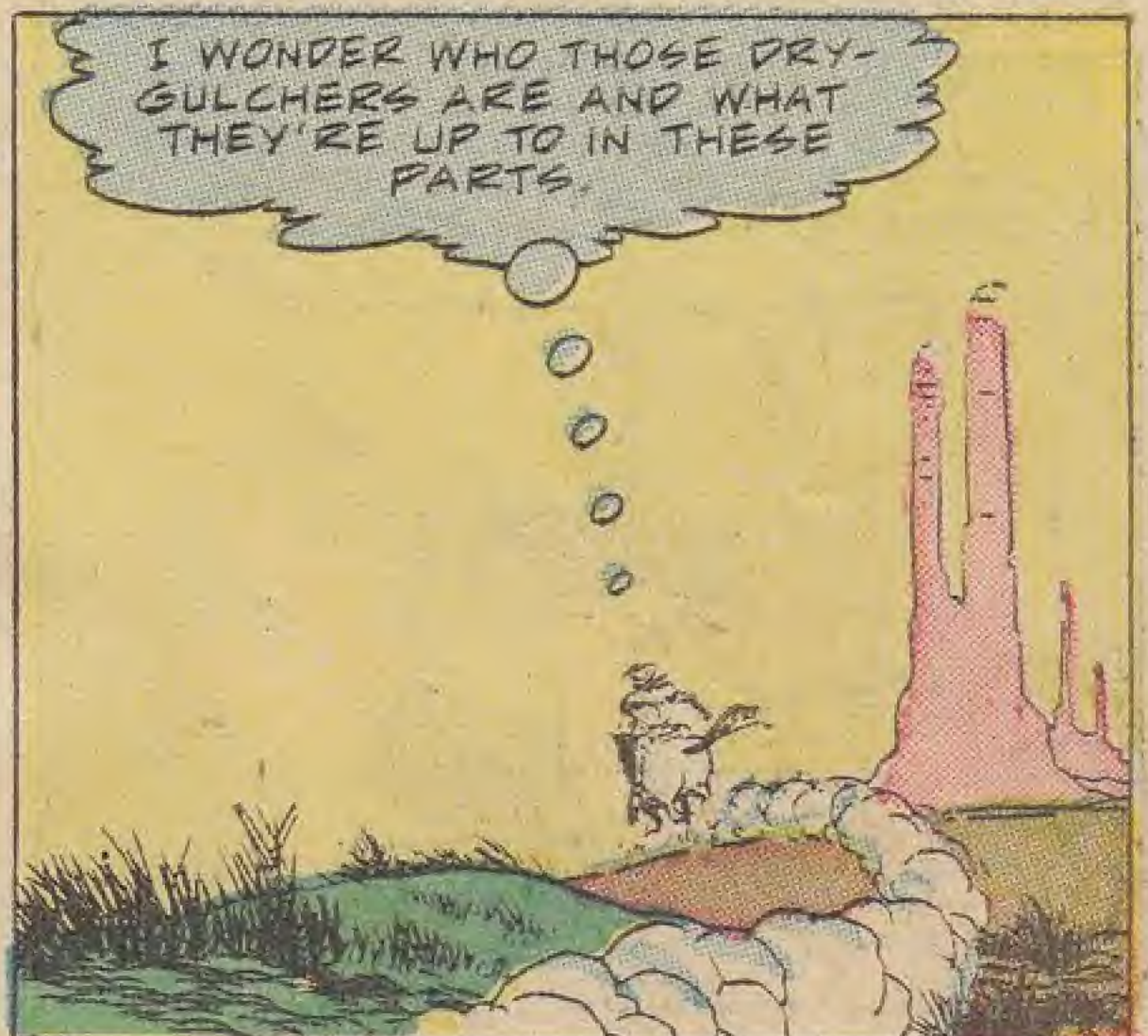
RED FIRE OUTSMARTED THE GUNHAWKS AND DOUBLED BACK ALONG THE ROCKS.



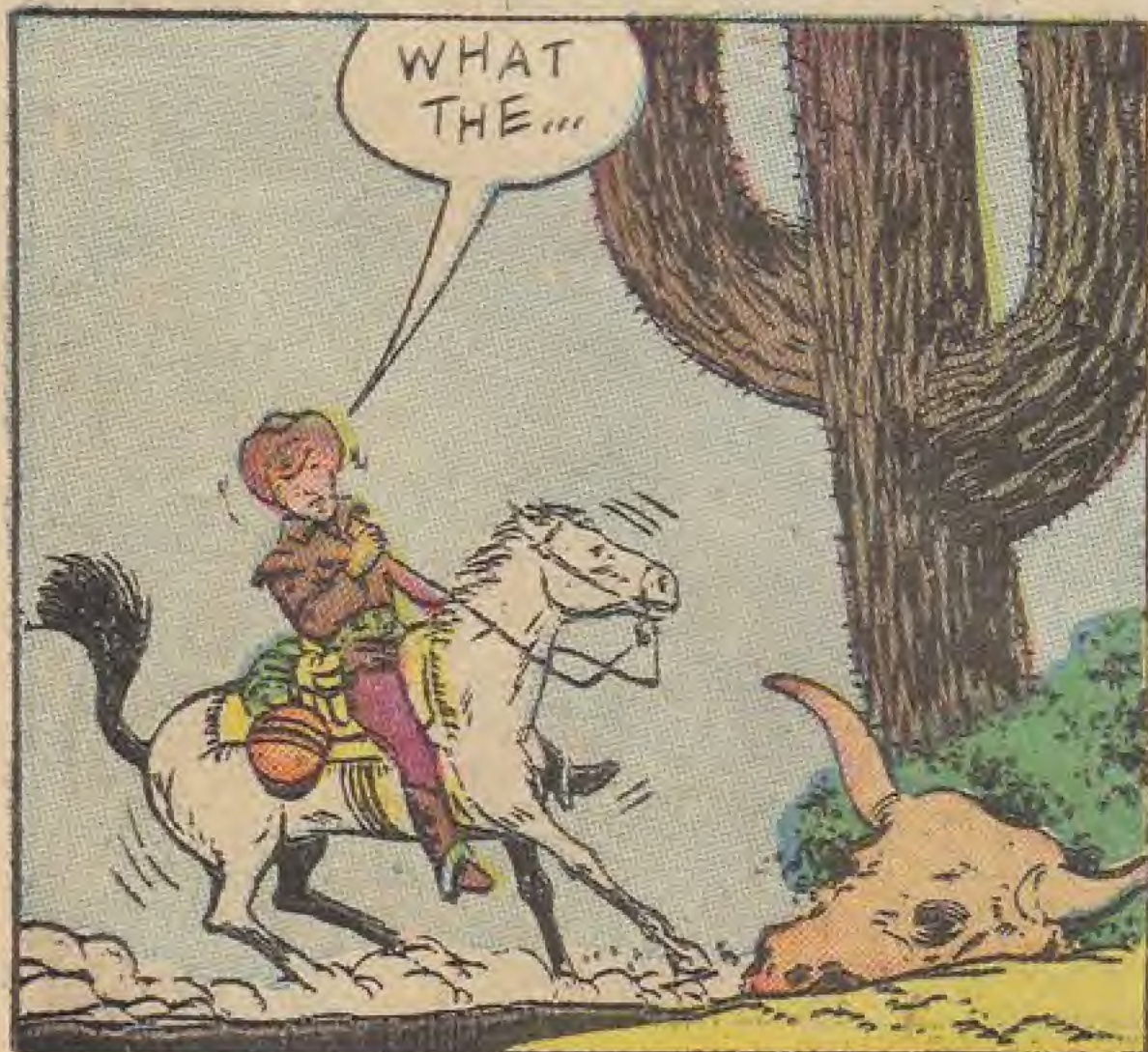
SHORTLY AFTER...



RED FIRE RIDES THE RANGE AGAIN.

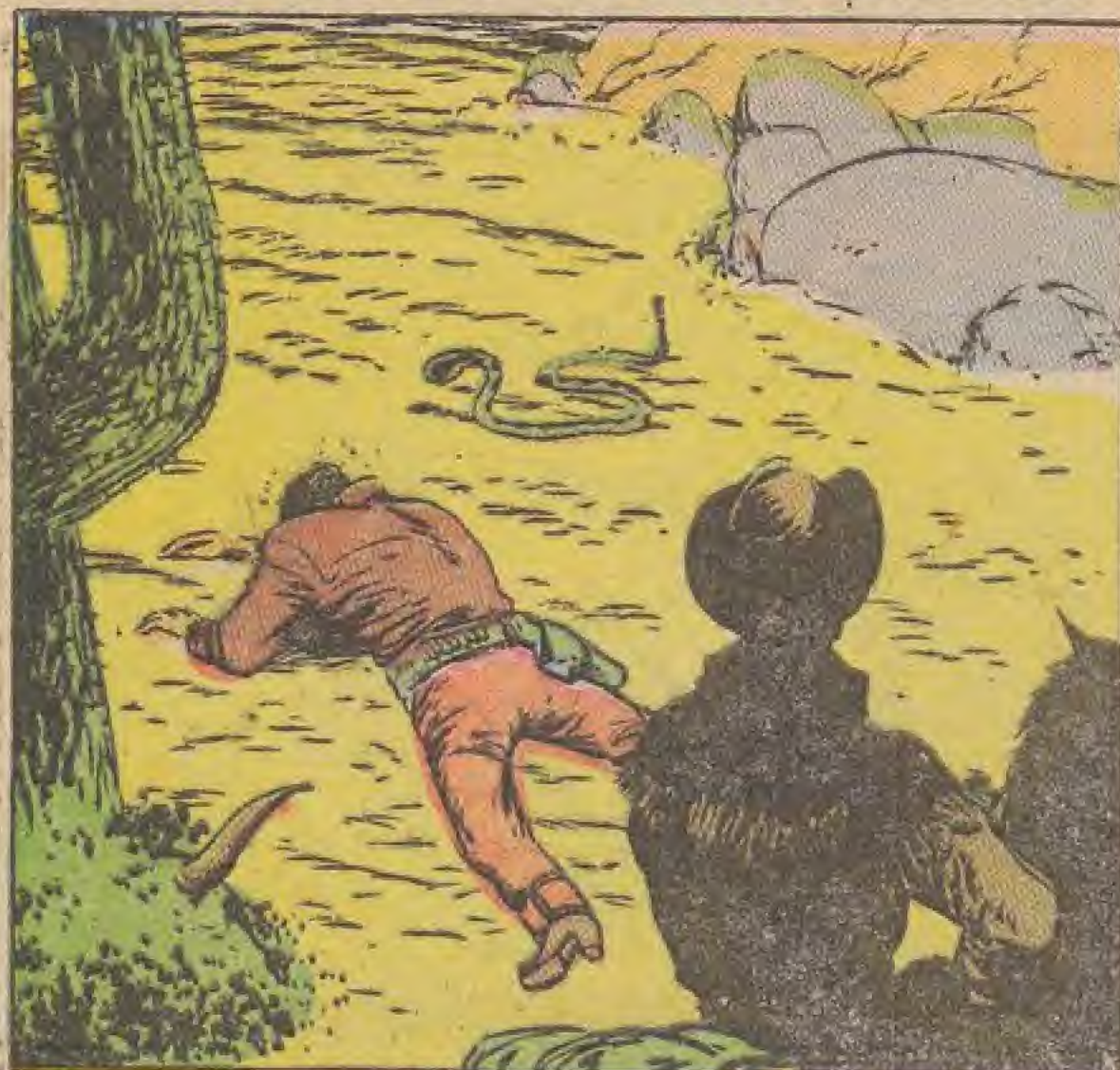


SUDDENLY RED FIRE COMES UPON A HAIR-RAISING SCENE.

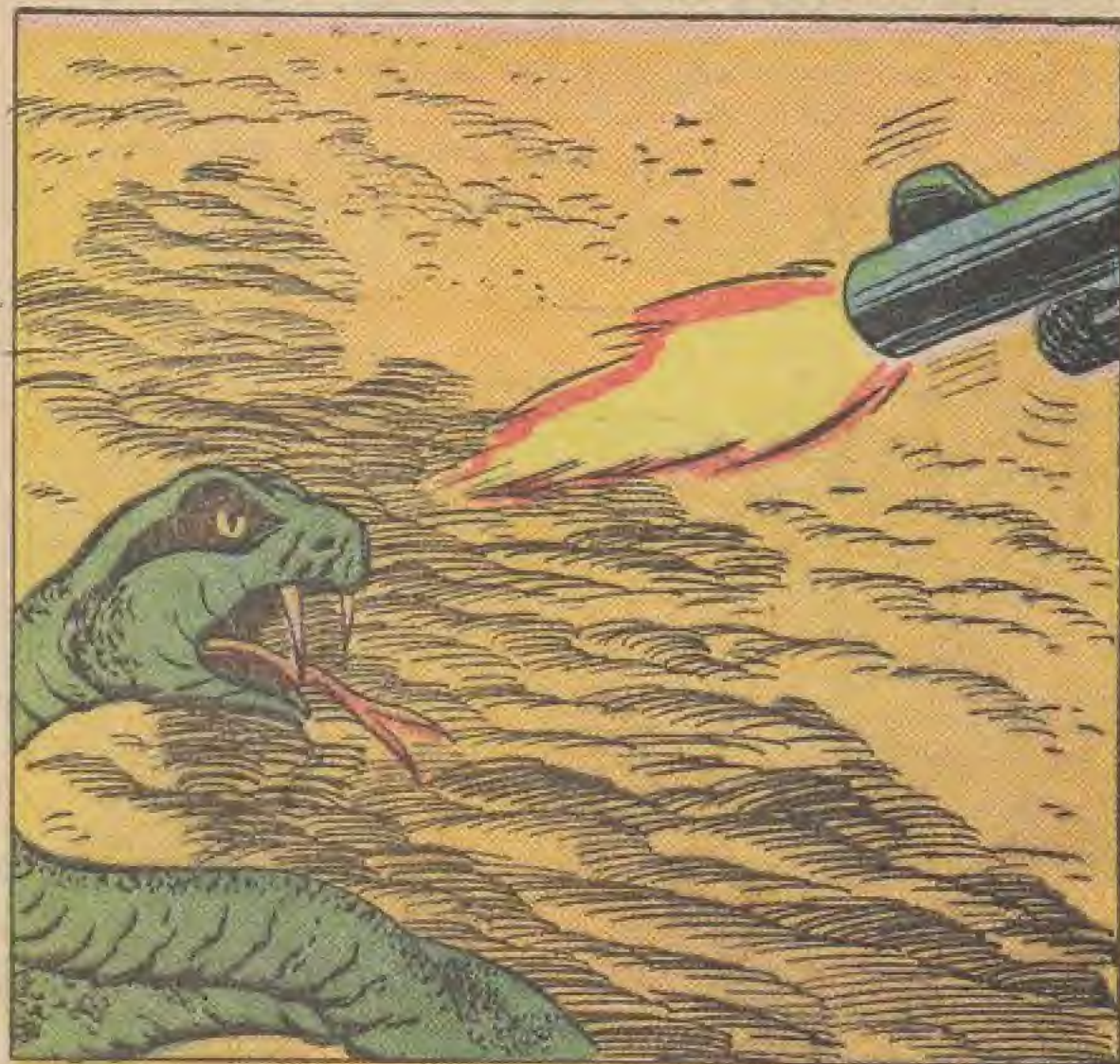




RED FIRE MAKES SHORT WORK OF A...



... VERY TERRIFYING SITUATION!



RED FIRE ROUNDED UP THE WADDY'S HORSE AND HELPED HIM TO THE SADDLE.



MUCH OBLIGED, STRANGER! MY NAME'S KYLE LAYNE!

I ACCIDENTALLY SHOT MYSELF WHEN MY PINTO BUCKED IN FRONT OF THAT RATTLER WHILE I WAS CLEANING MY GUN AS I WAS RIDING ALONG.



BETTER SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT THAT BULLET HOLE, KYLE!

I NEVER TOOK STOCK IN ANY OF THEM PILL ROLLERS... BUT IF YOU EVER NEED A GRUB STAKE OR I CAN EVER DO ANYTHING FOR YOU LOOK ME UP AT THE LONGHORN RANCH IN THE HILLS.



WELL, I'LL BE... JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT!

LATER



YES, RED FIRE! WE'VE BEEN AFTER KYLE LAYNE ALIAS THE SAGEBRUSH KID FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS AND NOW WE GOT THIS WARRANT ON HIM!

...AN' IF THE KID IS ANYWHERE NEAR DAWSON CITY... WE'LL BRING HIM IN!



SINCE ALL THE CATTLEMEN WERE MARRIED AND HAD FAMILIES, RED FIRE VOLUNTEERED TO BRING IN THE SAGEBRUSH KID HIMSELF.

NOBODY RETURNS ALIVE FROM LONGHORN!  
THEY SHOOT STRANGERS ON SIGHT!



SUDDENLY, A HARSH COMMAND TAKES RED FIRE BY SURPRISE!

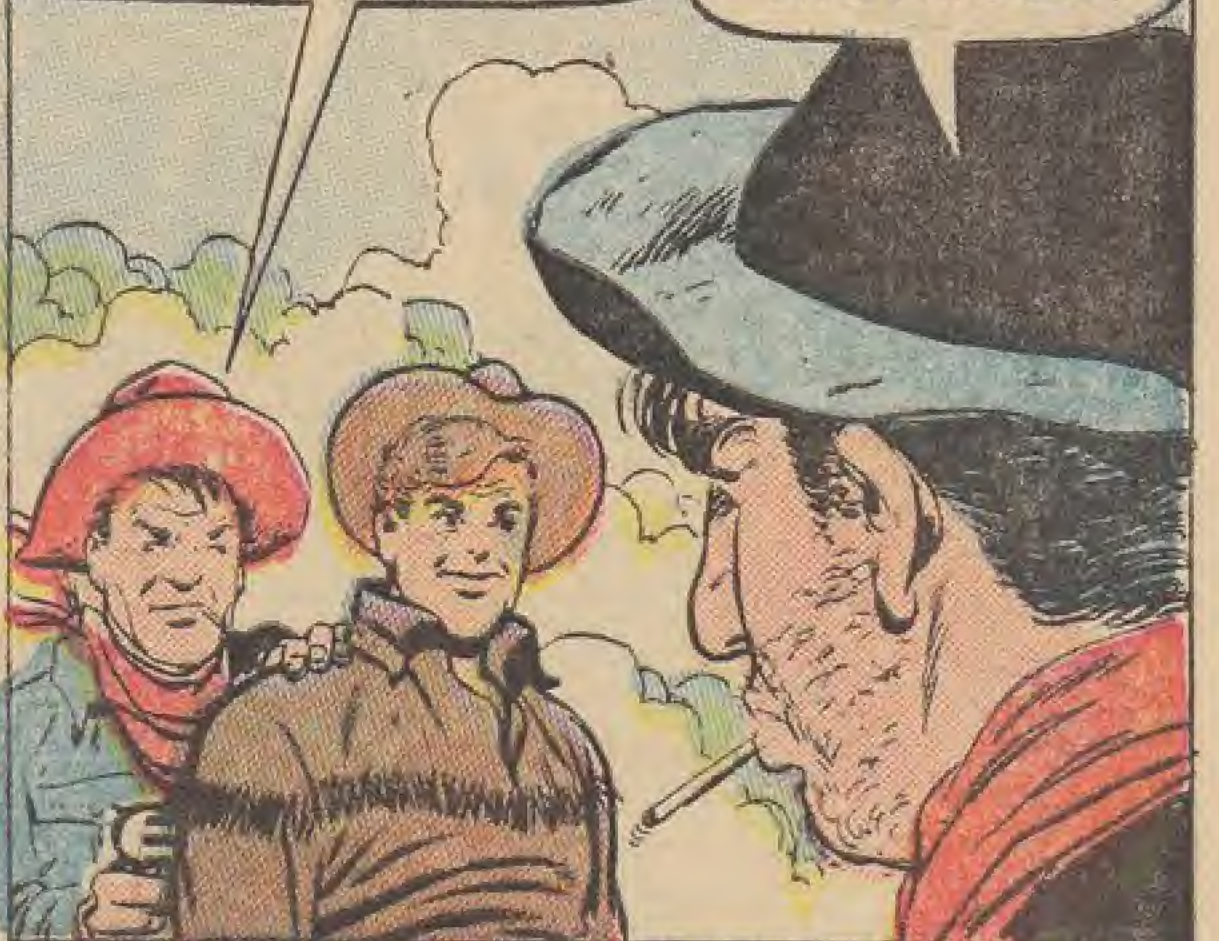
WHAT'RE YOU AFTER AROUND LONGHORN RANCH? I SURE HOPE YOU'RE NOT A LAWMAN CAUSE I'M GETTIN' MIGHTY TIRED DIGGIN' HOLES!

ER...AH...I'M A PAL OF KYLE LAYNE'S... HE ASKED ME TO DROP BY AND SEE HIM!



I CAUGHT HIM SPYIN' OUT BY THE CANYON WALL, DIRK! SAID HE'S A FRIEND OF THE KID'S

GO FETCH THE KID, PRONTO! MEANWHILE I'LL SEARCH THIS SIDEWINDER!



DIRK BANNON FINDS THE WARRANT ON RED FIRE ... AND BECOMES FURIOUS

A WARRANT FOR THE SAGEBRUSH KID, EH?

SEEMS TO ME YOUR NAME SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THAT WARRANT TOO!



LEAVE THAT WADDY ALONE, DIRK! HE SAVED MY LIFE THIS MORNING!

I'M RUNNING THIS OUTFIT, KID! GET HIM, MEN!

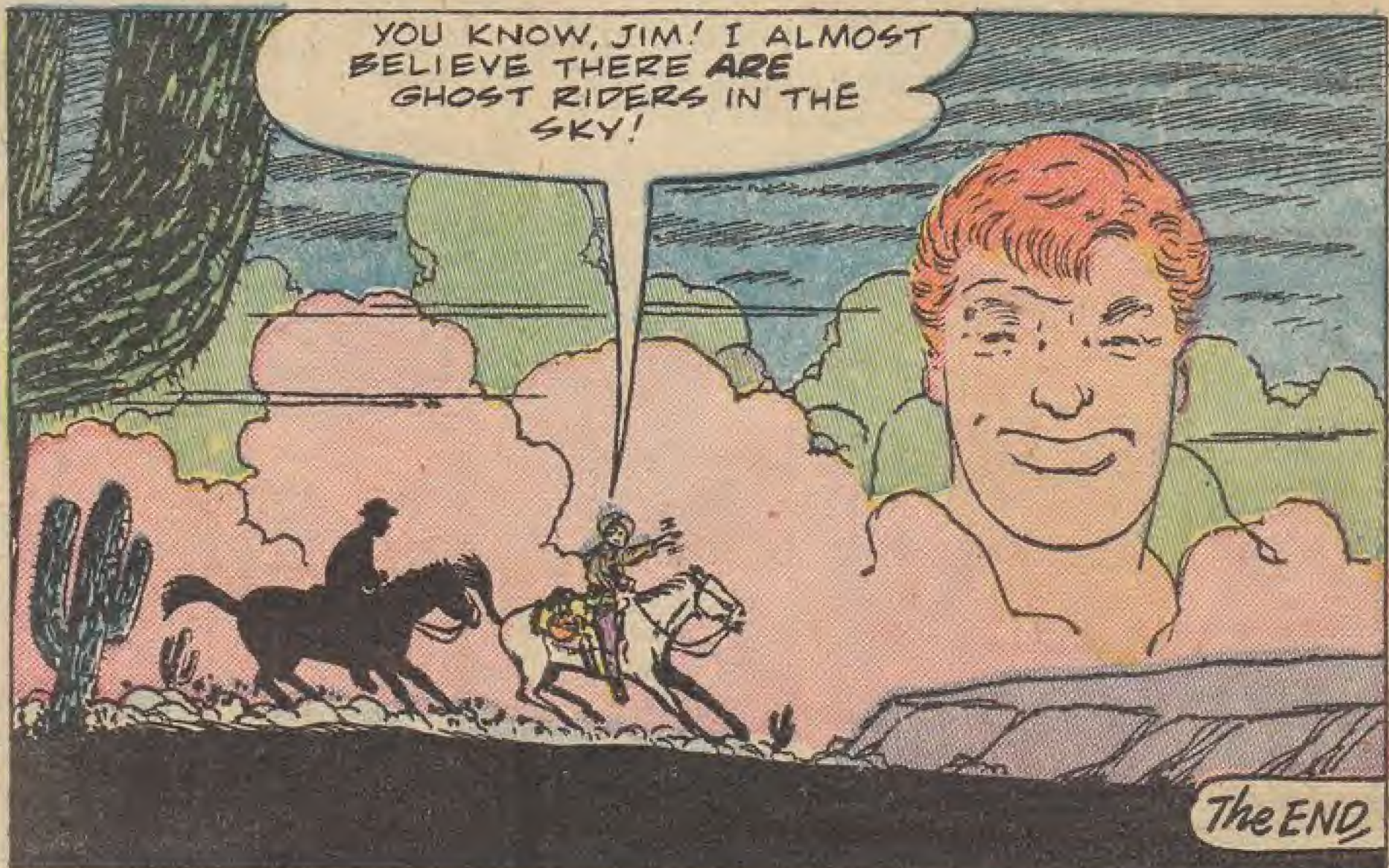


ALL RIGHT, LOUIE! DROP THAT GUN!

WHAT THE!







The END



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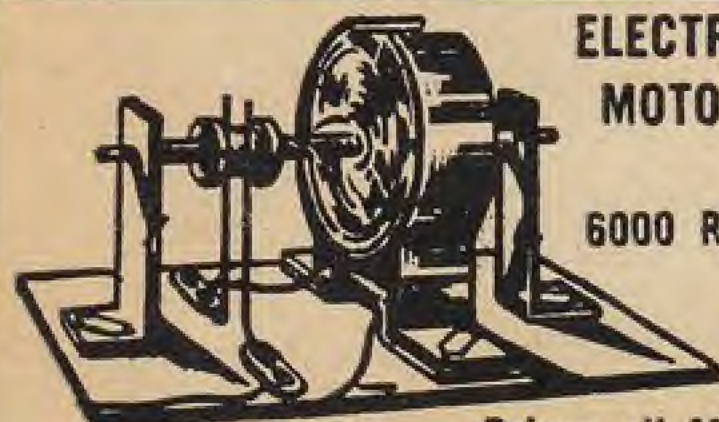
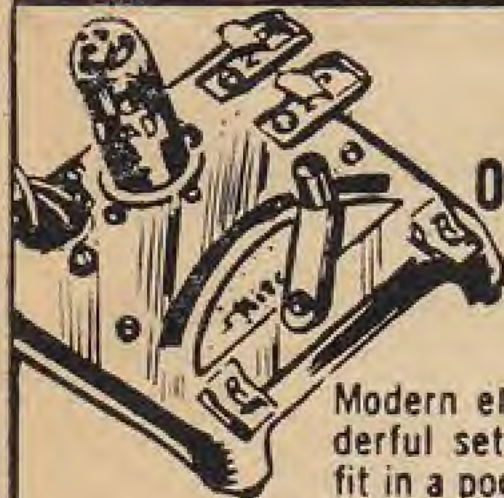
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Start early—see how easy it is to sell these colorful Christmas Packs to your family, friends and neighbors and get your prize at once. Each pack contains 4 pretty Christmas Cards, 4 envelopes and 32 sparkling Christmas Seals—40 pieces for 25c—a big value. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize from the FREE Prize Book. Or, keep \$2.00 for every order you sell.

**Send No Money—We Trust You**

Smart boys and girls have been getting prizes and money this easy way for over 35 years. Why don't you? Send no money—we trust you. Mail the coupon today, and we will send your Christmas Packs and Big Prize Book at once.

**AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO.**

Dept. 5, Lancaster, Pa.

**MAIL THIS COUPON Today**

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO.  
Dept. 5, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your BIG PRIZE BOOK and one order of 24 Christmas Packs. I will resell them at 25c each, send you the money and choose my prize.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



# Choose Your Prize

without a cent of cost... MAIL Coupon for FREE Prize Book

**DICK TRACY'S Official WRIST RADIO**



Snap it on your wrist, push the signal buzzer and talk with your friends, room to room, or house to house. Two-way voice transmission up to 1/2 mile.

**ACRO FLASH CAMERA**  
with Film



This swell outfit includes Camera, Flash Gun and free Film. Has Graf lens. Takes pictures in black and white or color. Makes beautiful enlargements.

**COWBOY JR. GUITAR**



Ideal instrument for beginners. Complete instructions with song book. Has nylon strings.

**PRETTY TRAVEL CASE**



Overnight Case with removable tray. Has mirror, look and key.

**GRALETT WRIST WATCH**  
for Boys and Girls



A Guaranteed watch. Hand-some Chromium case, unbreakable crystal, genuine leather strap. This attractive wrist watch is given without cost.

**GOLD-PLATED LOCKET SET**



With necklace, matching expansion bracelet. Each locket opens, holds two photographs.

**Official-Size BASKETBALL**



Sturdy valve-type ball. For indoor or outdoor use.

**CHEM-CRAFT CHEMISTRY SET**



Perform tests of chemical magic with this new Chemcraft Chemistry Set. Magic Book, instructions included.

**JET PLANE**



Nothing to build. Just attach wings, light fuse and away it goes. Flies 500 feet high. Given for selling just one order.

**20 PIECE FISHING OUTFIT**



This great outfit includes 4 ft. glass rod, strong pistol grip handle, nylon line, click reel, hooks, all accessories.

MAIL THIS COUPON... SELL CHRISTMAS CARDS AND EARN PRIZES LIKE THESE

ALL STAR BASEBALL, VARSITY FOOTBALL, BEAT THE CLOCK, SCRABBLE Your choice—for selling one order.